

Tuesday April 16 1996

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46,528

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G2 page 10/11

Ulster alarm raises prospect of Commons defeat

Tories face ambush on rail sale

Rebecca Smithers and Chris Barrie

THE fears of Ulster Unionists over the effect of rail privatisation in Northern Ireland look likely tomorrow to deliver John Major's first Commons defeat since last week's byelection failure cut his majority to one.

Although Labour business managers were only cautiously optimistic last night that they could align all minor parties behind their campaign to thwart privatisation, the discovery that the bus operator Stagecoach is interested in the province's 206 miles of track and 22 stations raised hopes of an ambush with Unionist backing.

A Government defeat would not stop rail privatisation because the legislation is already in place through the 1993 Railways Act. However, it would be a huge vote of no confidence in an important policy, just as ministers are hoping to tempt investors into the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation. The willingness of the nine Unionist MPs to use their clout for local purposes, as they did against Jim Callaghan's minority Government in the late 1970s, is a sign of the power they wield in maintaining Mr Major's credibility.

Labour has initiated the debate and will put down a formal motion today calling for the £1.8 billion flotation of Railtrack to be scrapped, and

The sell-off

- 20,000 miles of track
- 2,500 stations
- 9,000 level crossings
- 90 maintenance depots
- 40,000 bridges, viaducts, tunnels
- 11,500 employees

the rest of the complex privatisation reviewed. Labour is counting the support of the 25 Liberal Democrat MPs, but accepts that the handful of Tory waverers, including Sir Keith Speed and Hugh Dykes, are unlikely to vote against the Government.

The Government has always maintained that privatisation of services in Northern Ireland should "follow rather than lead franchising in Great Britain".

Despite a recent reorganisation of the railway company, the timetable for "full franchising" is now said to be simply under review, and the Ulster Unionists are keen for clarification.

Yesterday Keith Bill, secretary of the Save Our Railways campaign, representing unions and passenger groups, said that Stagecoach has expressed interest in the Northern Ireland rail services. The highly acquisitive com-

pany has been the subject of 24 separate investigations by the Office of Fair Trading over complaints such as predatory pricing in the bus industry.

A Stagecoach spokesman did not deny "informal interest" and said it had not yet received the green light to bid.

As the Government pressed ahead with publication of the pathfinder prospectus, Railtrack's chairman Bob Horton brushed aside questions on his future under a Labour government. The £159,000 former BP executive insisted that he intended to offer his services to the company once his contract expires next March.

He also dismissed criticism of the company's decision to pay shareholders a 289 million dividend from profits made while the company was in state ownership.

Mr Horton insisted that the payment would be taken into account by investors in setting the price tag.

But Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT rail union, condemned the payments as scandalous.

Revealed in the small print of the Railtrack prospectus, chief executive John Edmondson has had an 18 per cent salary increase to £168,000. Non-executive directors are entitled to receive an annual fee of £10,000 plus £500 for attending each meeting of a board committee.

Leader's comment, page 5; Notebook, page 11; Outlook, page 12.



A golden sance-boat in the exhibition of Trojan treasure that opened in Moscow yesterday

Top City copper dealer quits

Paul Murphy and Patrick Donovan

CHARLES VINCENT, the City dealer who earned £18 million a year, has unexpectedly resigned from the leading metals trading company he founded, it emerged last night. He is said to be going for "lifestyle reasons".

Mr Vincent, aged 35, earned the nickname Copperfingers as he built up his firm, Winchester Commodities, within four years. The City watchdog, the Securities and Futures Authority, announced this year that it was investigating its activities.

There is no suggestion that Mr Vincent's departure is connected to the inquiry. A spokesman for Winchester, which has a salary bill of £55 million for its 48 employees, confirmed Mr Vincent had resigned, although no public announcement had been made. Mr Vincent was said to have been planning to leave the board as long ago as November. He is expected to keep his 50 per cent shareholding.

Winchester, based in the Hampshire city, admitted in February that City supervisors had raised concerns about a series of deals struck with the Chilean copper company CODECO. A spokesman for the SFA last night said that the dialogue with Winchester was continuing.

The SFA, which has been investigating Winchester for more than a year, was unaware last night of Mr Vincent's departure. Under company law, Winchester is obliged to inform its regulator of all boardroom changes.

Mr Vincent won his nickname because of his consummate skill in playing the metals market. After starting Winchester, he quickly established himself as one of the most influential traders in the world markets, controlling almost a third of the total turnover in the London copper market.

Labour steers Short from spotlight after tax gaffe

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

SENIOR Labour officials yesterday pulled Clare Short, the shadow transport secretary, from further interviews, fearing more blunders after she refused to back down on comments that middle income earners should pay more tax.

In a clear sign of their waning confidence in Ms Short, they also decided to cancel a press conference planned for today, when she and other members of Labour's transport team were due to answer questions about tomorrow's critical Commons rail privatisation debate.

Ms Short's remarks to a Sunday morning TV programme blew a hole in Tony Blair's new campaign to present his party as a party of low taxation, allowing the Conservatives to put an abrupt end to Labour's glory in the wake of its resounding by-election victory in Staffordshire South-East.

Ms Short said that people like her should contribute more under a "fair" tax system — in sharp contrast to Mr Blair's view that



Clare Short: interviews and press conferences cancelled

the GMTV Sunday programme were merely personal and made it clear she would not be intimidated by Mr Blair's anonymous advisers, who are said to have accused her of being "infectious, unprofessional and incompetent".

She pointed out that her basic MP's salary of around £24,000 was boosted by a widow's pension (her late husband was the former immigration minister Alex Lyon) and by "some media funding". But it is not clear whether this would take her over the £40,000 cut-off point, below which Tony Blair said last week that people might pay less tax under Labour.

Ms Short was also fiercely critical of the way her comments had been seized upon by the media, and said: "It's like a conspiracy to stop politicians talking honestly, so you get robots who just clone what they are told to say out of press releases."

Within minutes Radio 4 was reporting "sources close to Mr Blair" as saying that as she was in a hole "she should stop digging". Within the hour, her deputy, Brian Wilson, was handling TV media appearances from Glasgow.

Trojan gold glitters out of Bonn's reach

David Hearst in Moscow

ASTUNNING collection of Trojan gold, seized by Soviet troops in Nazi Berlin in 1945, went on show in Moscow yesterday and immediately provoked demands from Germany for the return of the treasures.

For a year, the Pushkin museum will show 269 precious artefacts unearthed by a German archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann, in 1873 and hidden in its vaults since the end of the second world war.

They are also claimed by Turkey, the location of what Schliemann claimed was the site of the city of Troy.

Opening the exhibition, the museum's director, Irina Antonova, was undaunted by the steady glances of the German ambassador, Ernst-Jörg von Studnitz, sitting behind her. She said she was happy the Pushkin could now show to the world what she had spent most of her working life denying had existed.

"What is happening here today is a second archaeological discovery," she said — the return to humanity of masterpieces which had been "out of culture" for a long time.

Mrs Antonova should know. It was she who buried King Priam's Treasure, as it



was then known, in the Pushkin's vaults on August 10, 1945, after personally accompanying the "evacuation" of the war booty by the Soviet army from occupied Berlin.

For almost 50 years Moscow denied it held the collection. President Boris Yeltsin admitted the truth in 1993.

Mr Von Studnitz said the exhibition was a step towards normality, but Bonn wanted the items back.

"Germany does not expect [Russia] to do more than fulfil existing agreements," he said. Bonn says a 1950 treaty with the then Soviet Union,

and a 1992 cultural agreement with Russia, require the return of booty seized illegally by either side during the second world war.

The treasures gleamed yesterday as if they had come straight from the goldsmith's workshop. Filigree hair-pins, crescent-shaped earrings, lock rings, a gold diadem worn by Schliemann's wife, golden chalices, a collection of three ritual hammer axes made from lapis lazuli — and the star of the collection, a golden twin-handled sance-boat.

Above the glittering array, Turn to page 2, column 7

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14

16

16

Sketch

Old war horses shy from new tricks



Peter Hetherington

THE old class warriors couldn't hide their distress. Behind the makeshift book stalls they peddled their wares: tracts by V. I. Lenin, F. Engels and three updated views of the man himself. "Marxism in the 90s"...

adherence to public ownership, unilateralism, full employment, a repeal of all Tory employment (ie, anti-union) legislation and a stronger role for unions within a peoples' party.

In short, it is deeply sceptical of the modernising tendency, Blairism and all its works — and Labour's paymasters from south of the border still use the tartan gathering as a means of easing their innermost political frustration, as letting off steam as Jimmy Knapp of the rail union RMT might say.

Rodney Bickerstaff, general secretary of the public services union Unison said that Blair's rush to the centre was getting out of hand. "Make sure you do not reach so far that you can't reach the ones who are desperate... I am sure that Labour in government will do that. They cannot be any worse than the lot that are in at the moment — I think."

So if Tony Blair wants "business not favouritism" from the unions, he will get few good turns from this lot. "Someone has to stand up and say things that perhaps are not acceptable," confessed Campbell Christie, general secretary of the 700,000-member Scottish TUC, which has lost almost a third of its members since he took over 10 years ago.

Today it will be the job of George Robertson, the shadow Scottish secretary and a former union official, to tell a gathering of unionists that Labour will not return to the 1970s. But while hard words sounded in the hall, a little new realism was to be found too. It came on a stand erected by the new Scottish coal company, an enterprise by the STUC, the miners union and workers, that emerged from the ashes of privatisation.

A good example of Baroness Thatcher's share owning democracy? "Sometimes you have to be pragmatic to deliver the goods," said Mr Christie. He's a non executive director of the company. A new capitalist, with a social conscience perhaps.

Review

Lightly waltzing with an elephant

John Fordham Ray Brown/Steps Ahead Cheltenham Festival

THERE'S hardly an instrument used in jazz that ambitious players haven't managed to recreate in their own image. Even so, the double bass is still a formidable proposition. This instrument, with strings that look thick enough to hold up a suspension bridge, and which requires the player to embrace it as if waltzing with an elephant, nervously sorts out the giants from the rest. Ray Brown, the bass legend, issued some breathtaking reminders in the Town Hall at the first, and excellent, Cheltenham Jazz Festival on Sunday.

ing symmetry, and episodes of leading minimalism remain. Percent of the M/Q's John Lewis. But it was Brown's unaccompanied playing that caused jaws to drop, as always. One long improvisation sustained his claim to remain one of the world's most personal and musical of bass players. Flamenco-like chords shimmered away into barely audible harmonics; there were fleeting quotes from Hall Of The Mountain King, of all things, achingly sustained slow glides up the fingerboard and hairy-like high arpeggios, all delivered as if every whisper was precious. Mike Mainieri's Steps Ahead, who play Ronnie Scott's in London this week, performed at the Everyman Theatre at the same time as Brown, but even a short sampling of this edition of a pioneering fusion band suggested they incline more to a rigorous postbop (although of a tricky, jump-cut kind) than the tedious disco-funk closing of their last record. They even opened the set with an adaptation of an Aaron Copland piano sonata that sounded like the Brecker brothers. The Roots Salutes The Saxophone band of reed-playing celebrities, including Benny Golson and Arthur Blythe, initially played more hesitantly than at Ronnie Scott's last week, and featured nothing as mesmerising as Golson's improvisation on I Remember Clifford. Nevertheless it included a spontaneous bass-drum conversation between Buster Williams and a mischievous Ed Thigpen on Lester Leaps In that was one of those out-of-nowhere definitions of the spirit of jazz.

Survey finds increase in otter population on English waterways

OTTERS are making a recovery on English waterways after being almost to extinction in the 1960s, reports Paul Brown. Research shows there were four times as many otters in 1988 as there were 15 years previously at 2,940 sites on English rivers. In a 1977-79 survey there were 284 at 170 sites, in 1985 961 at 284, and

now at 687. The rise has been accompanied by a drop in wild American mink — escapees from fur farms which took over otter habitats. The larger, stronger otters have driven out the mink. Orphaned otters or those recovering from injury have also been released into North Yorkshire by the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which carried out the survey.



Children give victory signs as they flee northwards yesterday in a car damaged by Israeli strikes on the town of Nabatiyeh in south Lebanon

PHOTOGRAPH: ADNAN HAJI

West in disarray over Israeli offensive

British ministers at odds as Peres rejects unilateral French moves to secure ceasefire against Hizbullah in Lebanon

Ian Black in London and Derek Brown in Jerusalem

WESTERN efforts to broker a diplomatic solution to the fighting in Lebanon were in disarray last night as Israel rejected French calls for a ceasefire and British ministers issued contradictory statements. France's foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, was meeting Israeli leaders before travelling to Syria and Lebanon today in a move that was conspicuously unco-ordinated with its European Union partners, and contrary to United States backing for the Israeli military offensive.

As the French envoy set off, Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, said bluntly that he was not ready to negotiate an end to the five-day-old air and artillery blitz against Hizbullah guerrillas, code-named Operation Grapes of Wrath. "It is too early to negotiate," Mr Peres said when asked what were Israel's conditions for an end to the most serious military action in the Middle East since the Arab-Israeli peace process took off in September 1993. EU diplomats criticised France for ignoring mechanisms for co-ordinating foreign policy, and complained that Paris was seeking to enhance its own role after President Jacques Chirac's recent

visit to Beirut and his public affirmation of Lebanese independence. Western governments have been unable to reconcile the contradiction between their support for the peace process, their opposition to militant Islamist movements, such as Hizbullah and its Iranian supporters, and the fact that Israel has been occupying part of Lebanon for more than a decade. Lebanon's prime minister, Rafik al-Hariri, before leaving Paris yesterday where he sought sympathy and support, said: "If there were no [Israeli] occupation, there would be no reason for Hizbullah to exist." Confusion over Britain's position arose when the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, on a prearranged visit to Israel, gave strong backing to its attacks. "I would not describe the Israeli reaction [in Lebanon] as disproportionate," Mr Portillo told reporters. "We look

to Israel always to take measures which are measured and which are considered and which are proportionate. I think that Israel is clearly facing a very substantial terrorist threat from Hizbullah, which is designed to undermine the peace process." Mr Portillo was apparently relying on the text of a letter he delivered to Mr Peres from John Major, and which was reflected in a highly supportive statement issued by the Foreign Office last Friday, before the scale of the Israeli operation became clear. Speaking in Brazil at the end of a Latin American tour, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, refused to be drawn on whether the Israeli action was proportionate. Diplomats said Friday's statement had been dictated by Downing Street against Foreign Office opposition. "When the peace process offers a non-violent way forward there can be absolutely no justification for Hiz-

bullah actions and we condemn them unreservedly." One well-placed source said: "Substitute the name IRA for Hizbullah and you can see very clearly what happened." Later yesterday the Foreign Office said: "We are disturbed by the increasing effects on civilians, despite Israel's efforts to avoid civilian loss of life, and by the growing humanitarian problems as large numbers of people flee from the south." It said it was sending its director of Middle East affairs, John Shepherd, to Beirut for talks with the Lebanese government. "It's not true to say we support the Israeli action, but we understand the reason as to why it was initiated, which is a rather different thing," one official said. Since last Thursday, Israeli gunfire and air strikes have killed more than 20 Lebanese and driven an estimated 400,000 from their homes. Each day of the assault, Hiz-

bullah guerrillas, whom Israel says it is hitting with "surgical strikes", have fired salvoes of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, wounding about 50 people. Mr Peres, who faces a general election in six weeks time, seemed close to anger yesterday when asked if the Lebanon operation — highly popular with the Israeli public — had been ordered to boost his campaign. "In democracies you don't play with the lives of people to make any political advantages," he replied sharply. Several commentators, however, have pointed out that Mr Peres, who has effectively answered critics who accused him of a dangerous obsession with peacemaking at all costs, is gambling for high stakes with the military option.

Treasury denies error in tax 'hole'

Sarah Ryan

ALLEGATIONS that sophisticated tax dodges by City firms have caused a shortfall of \$5 billion in government VAT receipts provoked fierce denials from the Treasury last night that it had got its sums wrong and endangered the Chancellor's spending plans and tax cut hopes. The Treasury is investigating the low haul by Customs & Excise — and City analysts are claiming that a key cause of the black hole in the Government's finances, set to be announced this week, is the VAT loss in the booming hidden economy.

VAT receipts in the current financial year are already expected by the Treasury to be \$4 billion lower than they originally hoped, although officials hit back at claims that their calculations were off by as much as \$5 billion. A spokesman said: "We have not only just become aware of the shortfall and we revised the initial prediction of \$4 billion down to \$4 billion in the November 1995 Budget. It has been fully factored into the Government's public spending arithmetic. We are waiting for the announcement on Thursday because until then we do not know exactly what the VAT revenue has been."

But he admitted that the Treasury was concerned that it had overestimated the VAT receipts for the 1990s as a whole and was seeking explanations with the help of Customs & Excise. He said some of the shortfall was blamed on the economy's failure to grow as quickly as Treasury forecasters had predicted. Chief UK economist at City bank Nikko, Simon Ericson, said: "More companies are taking tax spending seriously, as are individuals, and more people are learning ways of paying less tax. But a much larger cause is structural changes in the economy. A lot of money is now being spent in a way that doesn't attract the attention of the Chancellor in the hidden economy."

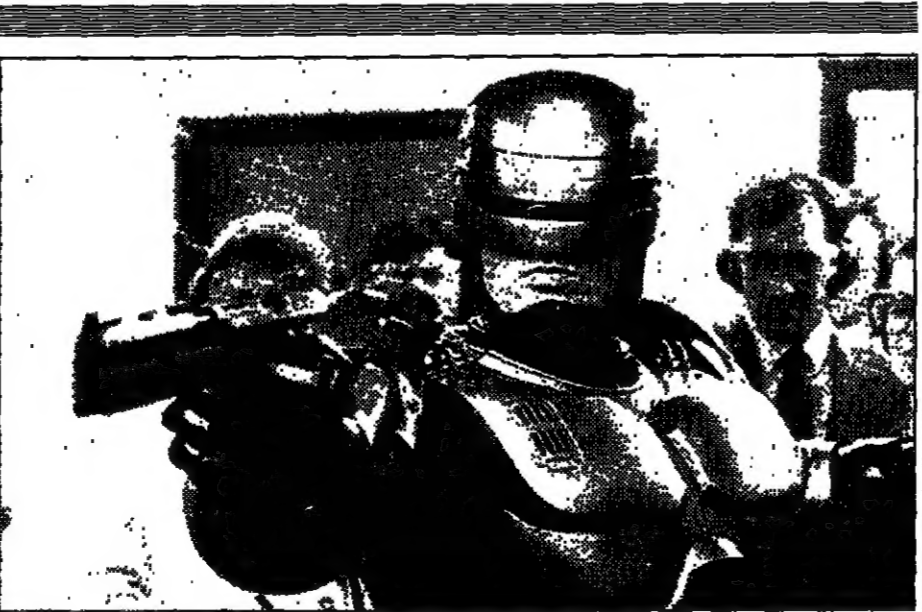
And HSBC economist Ian Shepherdson said: "These things may be running at a higher level now. But they also blamed the Government's own changes to the tax laws for the reduction in VAT revenue. A shift in emphasis from boosting revenue through income tax rises to getting more money out of consumers by

Trojan gold reignites war row between Russia and Germany

Continued from page 1

lay a simple inscription from Pushkin, who wrote when he saw a statue from ancient Greece: "I listen to the vanished sound of divine Hellenic speech." Schliemann claimed his find, donated to the German state in 1881, had belonged to King Priam, the king of the ancient Greek city of Troy featured in Homer's epic poem the Iliad. But later archaeologists have concluded the objects from the site in north-west Turkey are from the Bronze Age — about 2,500 BC, some 1,300 years before the Homeric era. Dr Wolf-Dieter Dube was another unhappy German present at yesterday's exhibition: "I am the general director of the state museums of Berlin, which means I am the real owner of this collection." There were 1,500 pieces in the three boxes removed from the Berlin museums by Soviet

troops, he said, but only 250 pieces were on show. "We look forward to the possibility to see in the nearest future the other 1,250-odd pieces." But had Dr Dube had the opportunity of seeing the 17th century Russian church blown up by the SS in 1941, or any of the 427 Russian museums destroyed by the German army during the war? He admitted he had not. Nobody could follow the logic of restitution in kind, he said. "You can't replace destroyed icons with golden finds from Troy." The Russians believe you can. The minister of culture, Yevgeny Sidorov, made few bones about why Moscow was showing the Trojan gold. "We want to present precise data about our losses in the years of war. We want restitution," he said. In other words, the Trojan gold is likely to stay in the Pushkin for some time.



Robocop: The British TV version of the film is seen as a gem of over-the-top censorship

TV viewers shocked by toned-down Robocop

Alex Bellis

ROBOCOP, the sci-fi movie best remembered for its comic-book violence, is still offending viewers almost a decade after its original release. Audiences watching it on television have been shocked by polite language and sickened that it was not violent enough. Angry viewers have bombarded local TV stations with calls, saying the television version has been censored so much that the film has been ruined. Public outrage has even prompted television executives to consider reinstating some of the bad language and violence when it is transmitted again. Rowan O'Sullivan, who, as LWT's compliance officer, is

responsible for censoring output, said Robocop, broadcast at 10.05pm on Saturday, well after the watershed, attracted more complaints than any other film this year. He said: "One can't help but notice that we have taken too much out of a film like Robocop. Maybe we have gone too far in looking after people's welfare." The British TV version of Robocop is generally regarded as a gem of over-the-top censorship, with the F-word over-dubbed enterprisingly and the violence so reduced that the plot is hard to follow. Mr O'Sullivan said the British version took five minutes off the US television version, itself a drastic re-edit of the 1987 original. Michael Winner, Robocop's director and censorship

spokesman of the Directors' Guild, said he was pleased people were making their voices heard. "Normally what you get is a moral minority making a disproportionate amount of noise," he said. "British television is censored beyond belief. I'm sure it didn't say 'Robocop, Scenes Thereof' in the Radio Times. They should be got under the Trade Descriptions Act." But Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said: "People that make that kind of complaint are only concerned about their own interests rather than the well-being of society as a whole. Anybody who cannot give up a little bit of film in order to reduce the climate of violence should not be taken seriously."

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Keeley Hawes, above left, in Karaoke, and, left to right, Michael Grade, Albert Finney and Alan Yentob. Finney plays a writer who believes his characters are coming alive



PHOTOGRAPHS: BBC AND SEAN SMITH

The Guardian

The latest three-monthly figures for the Guardian show that its readership rose by 19.6%* against the same period a year ago. From December '95 to February '96 we had an average of 1,419,000 readers against 1,186,000 for the same period last year. The Independent's readership fell by 21.6% during the same period and the Telegraph by 7.5%. The Guardian's rise was the largest year on year increase of all quality and Sunday papers.

*Figures supplied by National Readership Survey (NRS)

Plays that are pure Potter produce a posthumous put-down

Barrage of complaint preempts TV dramatist's 'fitting memorial'

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

DENNIS Potter supplied the leading characters in his two final television dramas with a posthumous put-down of his critics. In one of many autobiographical twists in Karaoke and Cold Lazarus, to be screened in a £10.3 million collaboration between the BBC and Channel 4 this month, the dying writer Daniel Feild declares from his hospital bed: "I am out of here in the morning and can afford to offend whomsoever I please."



Potter: Raced to finish project before death

watchdogs of more than 40 four-letter words in eight hours of drama. Mr Yentob said after a screening of the opening episodes: "Dennis would neither needlessly offend the audience, nor patronise them."

content and context is everything," he said. The two dramas were made in accordance with the dying wishes of the playwright, whose previous work included The Singing Detective and Lipstick on Your Collar. His extraordinary request for a "fitting memorial" came in a Channel 4 interview with Melvyn Bragg two months before his death from cancer in June 1994. During the 80-minute interview, fortified by champagne, black coffee, cigarettes, and morphine, he asked for the unprecedented arrangement between the two channels "since it is my last work, and since I have spent my life in television, and since that life has not been insignificant in television."

Rosemarie Whitman, one of the producers, said: "The emotional commitment from all of us is huge - we cried every episode." Kenneth Trodd, her fellow producer, said: "There were many times that we were watching it, that it was best we were in the dark. It does tug at the heart and you can't express what your feelings are." Sarah Potter, who watched as her exhausted father wrote 12 pages a day instead of 10 to complete the project before his death, said: "I did not doubt that he would finish them... I think it is a brilliant piece of work."

Snake, rape and dead head weeping as slaming of playwright's door echoes

Nancy Banks-Smith

"OH, BUT they say the tongues of dying men enforce attention like deep harmony," as John of Gaunt said. Following this up with a hymn to England and a brisk ticking off for his nephew. The dying Dennis Potter, using emotional blackmail so cheerfully blameworthy that your eyes water, shotgassed the BBC and Channel 4 into marriage. At his insistence they will show Karaoke and Cold Lazarus, which he wrote against the ticking of the cancer clock, in tandem from the end of April to the middle of June. A discreet divorce will then be arranged.

run by a couple of comic, foul mouthed monsters. Martina, renewed by youth pills and a string of young studs, makes the happy pills - and Blitz, a multi media mogul, makes the pappy programmes. England doesn't exist. Staring at Professor Emma Porlock (Frances de la Tour), an incarnation of formidable starchiness. Slitz says: "There may not be an England any more but there's still the English." "There will always be an England," says Professor Porlock tersely. This got both a laugh and applause at the National Film Theatre where both were shown over the weekend.

head's memories will be a TV sensation. And then the scientists realise the head is aware of its own violation. Potter went out with a bang. You could hear the door slam behind him. As Daniel Feild says: "I'm out of here in the morning. I can afford to offend whomsoever I choose." (Which reminds me, in Karaoke, Daniel Feild disastrosly uses the name of a real man in his play. Oddly enough, there is a real Daniel Feild too, a well known, but not apparently well known enough, hairdresser. Desperate lines of dialogue like "Feild with two ees" sound as if this hair-tearing point was noticed rather late in the day. Never mind... nice man... drinks his own shampoo to show it's wholesome... probably won't mind being described as "that drunken fool".) The project went well over budget but Kenneth Trodd, the producer of both plays, was determined not to skimp on the mint sauce in what he called the Last Supper of television drama.

Man, 85, to face war crimes trial

David Pallister

AN 85-year-old man who moved to England in 1947 from the Soviet Union yesterday became the first person in Britain to face trial on war crimes charges. Szymon Serafinowicz, from Banstead, Surrey, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey on three counts of murdering an unknown Jew in Byelorussia - now Belarus - while it was under Nazi occupation in 1941 and 1942. The chief metropolitan magistrate, Peter Badge, sitting at Dorking magistrates' court, said there was insufficient evidence to commit on a fourth, similar charge. A further charge was abandoned by the Crown Prosecution Service at the start of the hearing.

Balliol chair loses 'tainted' money

Alex Bell

GERT-RUDOLF Flick, the millionaire grandson of a Nazi war criminal, has pulled out of funding a professorship at Balliol College, Oxford, after a year-long controversy about whether or not his money was tainted. Balliol College has given its backing to the Flick chair in European thought, which was to be funded by a £350,000 donation, but the decision was criticised by dons who believed it was unethical to accept money from the grandson of a man convicted at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal. Dr Flick wrote to the university saying he wanted his name removed from the chair and his endowment money returned.

ment Jews, such as Lord Weldenfeld, said a line had to be drawn under Germany's Nazi past and said Balliol should accept the money. Dr Flick's grandfather, Friedrich, built up one of Germany's richest industrial empires, with products ranging from munitions to Mercedes Benz cars. He was an adviser to Heinrich Himmler and allegedly used 40,000 slave labourers. After the war, he was sentenced to seven years jail, and was freed after three years, in 1950. He died in 1972, aged 88, splitting his fortune between his grandsons, Dr Flick and his brother, Friedrich-Christian. Supporters of Dr Flick said his inheritance stemmed from the rebuilding of the Flick empire after the war, while his critics say wartime profits made with slave labour was the seed-corn to finance the post-war recovery.

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News in brief

Jackson stage show complaints rejected

THE Michael Jackson performance which led to an on-stage protest by Pulp singer Jarvis Cocker was "open to misinterpretation" but did not breach any programme code, the Independent Television Commission said yesterday. It had received seven complaints from viewers angry at "apparently religious overtones" as Jackson stretched out his arms and was embraced by child and adult actors, in what was interpreted by some as a Christ-like pose at the ITV screening of the Brit Awards in February.

Canal twin died from injuries

A MAN found dead in Regents Canal, north London, where his twin was discovered eight days earlier had suffered severe head injuries, St Pancras coroner's court was told yesterday. Christopher Langford, aged 36, was found first and police originally believed that he had drowned. Detective Inspector John Yates said that the cause of Christopher's death was being re-investigated after the discovery that Anthony Langford's cause of death was severe head injuries. He also had other injuries, including broken ribs. His body was found in a blue blanket. "A man has been arrested and charged with the double murder of the twins as they are appearing at High Wycombe magistrates court today."

Stranded tourists finally Goa

A HUNDRED holidaymakers who were stranded at Newcastle airport for nearly two days were put on a fleet of coaches for Glasgow airport for a 5pm flight last night to Goa, India. All the passengers will be paid £100 by Caledonian airlines for the delay caused because their plane which was flying to Scotland from Gatwick could not land at Newcastle because it would have added to the crew's flying hours, take-offs and landings. A landing at Newcastle and then Glasgow would put them over their limit.

400 item price cut

KWIK SAVE, which is selling baked beans at 3p a can and tinned tomatoes for 8p, yesterday cut prices by up to 15 per cent on around 400 products and claimed its campaign could save shoppers up to £5 on a £30 weekly basket. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's which has fuelled the check-out wars since the new year, said: "We were interested to hear of Kwik Save's price cuts but the fact remains that the Sainsbury's brand offers the best value for money." The Asda marketing director, Gwyn Burr, dismissed the Kwik Save cuts as a stunt to gain ground after losing its market share in Scotland.

Soya clue to breast cancer

SOY protein found in Chinese food contains chemical compounds which appear to mimic the action of the widely-used breast cancer drug tamoxifen, according to Helen Wiseman, of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at King's College, London. She says this may be why people in Japan and China have such low rates of breast, colon and prostate cancer and could also explain why populations consuming large amounts of soy products have a low incidence of heart disease. Tamoxifen was also believed to prevent heart disease and osteoporosis. At a meeting of the Biochemical Society at Liverpool university, Dr Wiseman suggested that oriental food may help to protect some women against breast cancer. Soya beans, soya milk and other soy products contain bioactive substances called isoflavonoids. Like tamoxifen, they may stop the female hormone oestrogen acting on the breast where it can cause cancer.

'Flesh bug' mother dies

JILL MASEKILL, aged 29, who contracted necrotising fasciitis, a so-called flesh eating bug, days after giving birth to a healthy girl at Hillingdon hospital, north London, has died, it was disclosed yesterday. She had been transferred to Derriford hospital, Plymouth, and was receiving pioneering oxygen treatment in a recompression chamber at the Fort Bovisand hyperbaric medical centre.



Actress Joanna Lumley celebrates the launch today of a Post Office stamp set commemorating the centenary of the first commercial film show. PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN ANGLER

Job scheme vulnerable, memo warns

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS have been warned that the Government is vulnerable to a legal challenge that could undermine its job training programme by forcing it to pay the child care costs of unemployed women. Officials say in a confidential memorandum that it is difficult to see how the Government could defeat a challenge under European Union law if significant numbers of women said they were unable to attend the new Project Work scheme because of lack of help with child care.

Work scheme because of lack of help with child care. Offering child care assistance on Project Work could cost up to £50 million a year, the memorandum says, and might have wide-ranging implications for other schemes. Assistance on all schemes would exceed resources. Ministers have resisted calls to help unemployed women re-enter the job market by covering or subsidising child care costs, even though there is now a concerted drive to reduce the £1 million total of lone parents on income support benefit. Project Work, which started last week on a pilot basis in Hull and parts of Kent, is the nearest the Government has yet come to an American-style "workfare" scheme making benefit conditional on participation.

Under the scheme, people aged 16-50 unemployed more than two years will be required to take part in a 13-week assisted job search followed, if unsuccessful, by 13 weeks of work experience. Failure to participate in work experience will trigger withdrawal of benefit for two weeks, or four weeks if the failure is repeated, although sanctions will not be applied to lone parents and may not be applied to others who demonstrate they cannot make child care arrangements for at least 16 hours a week. The pilots are due to run until June next year, with a view to the scheme going national thereafter, and are expected to involve up to 8,000 people.

The Whitehall memorandum was written earlier this month by Susan McLaren, of the employment policy division of the Department for Education and Employment. She recommends ministers not to offer help with child care costs under the new scheme — a recommendation the department yesterday confirmed had been accepted — but warns that the "high profile and controversial nature" of Project Work might make it more vulnerable than other schemes to legal challenge.

Ms McLaren says that indirect discrimination would be proved under EU law if significantly more people of one sex were prevented from joining the scheme because of their caring responsibilities. "If the figures showed a disparate impact between the sexes... it is difficult to see how we could objectively justify the policy (the need to limit public expenditure is not considered sufficient justification)." She concludes by recommending "on balance" to ministers that no help with child care costs be offered because it would cost too much, but adds that the department's sex and race equality division disagrees on grounds that not offering help "may run contrary to the department policy of removing barriers to work for women".

Paul Covery, director of the Unemployment Unit pressure group, said last night: "We have known for over a decade that child care responsibilities do prove an obstacle to people who want to join training and work experience initiatives. It is clear they should be considered for Project Work."

Drugs clue to 'contract killing'

Stephen Lytle

TWO possible contract killers were being hunted by police in Manchester yesterday after separate shootings on Sunday evening left one man dead and another seriously wounded.



The Cafe Loco where an alleged underworld figure was killed. PHOTOGRAPH CHRIS LEAVER

Greater Manchester Police are revealing few details about either incident but are not ruling out the possibility of them being contract shootings. It is not thought the two incidents are related. Neither victim has yet been named but the dead man is understood to be Anthony Constantinou, aged 36 and known in Manchester's underworld as Tony the Greek. Mr Constantinou was shot as he sat in the city centre Cafe Loco bar. His killer had walked up to him, fired a single shot and then left. Mr Constantinou died from his injuries shortly after being taken to Manchester Royal infirmary. Some witnesses have been placed under armed police guard.

The dead man had been banned from the Rainbow snooker club across the road from the Cafe Loco for alleged drugs dealing. The manager of the club who does not wish to be named said that the shooting was drugs related. "I was told it was Tony who had been shot and that it was a gangland thing because of the drugs," he said. Earlier the same evening in Salford, a 24-year-old man was shot at close range while walking with a friend. A man wearing a black balaclava and long black trench coat appeared in front of him and fired a single shot. The victim had instinctively lifted his arm to protect his face and was hit in the wrist and arm. He is still receiving treatment in Hope hospital.

Friends of a farmer who committed suicide yesterday said he was facing financial ruin because of the BSE crisis. John Capp, aged 58, of Beckingham, Lincolnshire, was found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning on Sunday. His friends claimed the beef scare had "tipped him over the edge" and that Mr Capp had been unable to sell any of his 200 cattle since the BSE scare started. Auctioneer Paul Gentry, who sold cows for Mr Capp at the cattle market in Newark, Nottinghamshire, said: "He had hundreds of thousands of pounds tied up in beef and faced financial ruin."

Farmer's suicide 'over BSE scare'

Week Chaudhary

FRIENDS of a farmer who committed suicide yesterday said he was facing financial ruin because of the BSE crisis. John Capp, aged 58, of Beckingham, Lincolnshire, was found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning on Sunday. His friends claimed the beef scare had "tipped him over the edge" and that Mr Capp had been unable to sell any of his 200 cattle since the BSE scare started. Auctioneer Paul Gentry, who sold cows for Mr Capp at the cattle market in Newark, Nottinghamshire, said: "He had hundreds of thousands of pounds tied up in beef and faced financial ruin."

There were 983 suicides by farmers between 1980 and 1990, but the National Farmers Union thinks the true figure is much higher because coroners are often reluctant to record suicide verdicts. Harry Albright, East Midlands spokesman of the NFU, said: "We have said all along that this is a situation which is causing farmers great stress and that is why we are pressing for urgent action from the Government." Dairy farmer Joseph Roper was fined £10,000 yesterday after admitting four charges of selling cattle and not revealing his herd had been affected by BSE. Joseph Roper, aged 42, of Suckley, Hereford and Worcester, sold four Friesian cows at Worcester livestock market in August and September last year. Mohammed Irshad, for Hereford and Worcester trading standards, told Worcester magistrates: "It is important in light of what has happened recently that enforcement procedures are seen to be working." Mr Roper said after the hearing: "I feel that I've been made a scapegoat and I can't believe how much I've been fined."

Chief Justice warns on peril of trial by media

Clara Dyer, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, yesterday said that irresponsible media reporting of high profile cases could make a fair trial impossible. Saturation coverage had led to a growing number of defence applications to abort the entire proceedings. The risk of prosecution for contempt of court usually acted as a sufficient brake on media excesses, he told a meeting of Commonwealth judges and magistrates at Hertfordshire university in St Albans. But some newspapers pushed that risk to the limits. "We must recognise that the right of the public to information, and of the media to report and express views freely, has to be balanced against the right of the parties, and in particular of the defendant in a criminal case,

to a fair trial. One very real danger raised by irresponsible or merely excessive reporting of the judicial process or in advance of it is that the process itself may become impossible. "Trial by television then ceases to be an honorary slogan and becomes a real and dangerous threat to the rule of law. Courts must be vigilant to deal firmly with contempt where media coverage imperils the fair administration of justice." He attacked the "disturbing tendency" among defence solicitors to try to persuade the public that their client was a victim of a miscarriage of justice in the run-up to an appeal. This undermined the appeal process in the public's eyes and could limit the options available to the Appeal Court by prejudging any retrial which might be ordered. Lord Taylor asked the Law Society last year to consider imposing a ban on solicitors speaking about their clients' cases in the media. Barristers have long had such a rule, but the society believes it is unnecessary. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, has referred the issue to his advisory committee on legal education and conduct. Lord Taylor again voiced his opposition to the televising of trials, which would cause unjustifiable stress and anxiety for witnesses. But he had an "open mind" on the question of televising appeals. Judges should be more prepared than formerly to talk to the media about law and legal issues. A legacy from past reluctance was that they were seen as aloof. "It is simply no longer sensible to remain silent when so much attention, much of it highly critical, is focused on the courts and the judicial process."

'Big Jack' facing fine after bailiff tackles him for unlicensed fishing

Jack Charlton

JACK Charlton, whose Republic of Ireland team poached a place among soccer's elite, was caught fishing without a licence and faces a £2,500 fine if convicted, writes John Duncan. Charlton was caught at Whittle Dean reservoir near his Northumberland home, fishing for trout without a £15 licence. "I'm guilty," said Charlton, who retired recently as Ireland manager after steering them through the 1988 European Championships and 1994 World Cup finals. "It wasn't an oversight. I knew I didn't have a

licence. Mine expired on March 1 and I went fishing on Easter Monday. The bailiff asked me if I had a licence. I had to tell him I hadn't." He said he had not been able to buy a licence the previous Saturday because his daughter was having a baby in Leeds. Before that he was involved in organising his mother's funeral. Although he had not landed a single fish when challenged, Charlton — a keen angler since his youth — has now bought a licence but does not know if he will be taken to court.

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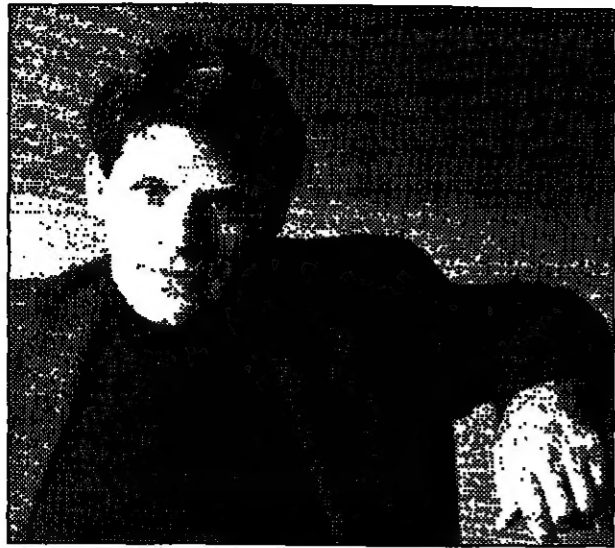
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HMS Titanic Inc, the US company which owns the salvage rights, is to send a submersible to lift a 30ft section of the hull, including portholes. This will be the star exhibit of a lucrative worldwide touring exhibition, probably on a specially built ship. G2 cover story

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Book ignites Holocaust row



Daniel Goldhagen: Pressing the case for collective guilt

Ian Traynor in Bonn reports on the furore over a Harvard don's indictment of ordinary Germans and their role in the war

A NEW book by a Harvard professor has triggered outrage in Germany among historians, critics and intellectuals, even before it has become available across the country.

Daniel Goldhagen's book *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* — a strongly argued indictment of Germans for their alleged complicity in the murder of 6 million Jews — has reopened an angst-ridden debate on what it is to be a German and whether the verdict of collective guilt is valid.

Prof Goldhagen, aged 38, has been promoting the book, which has just been published in Britain and the United States. He pressed his

Mr Schirmacher, among the most formidable of younger generation of German intellectuals, went on to say that Prof Goldhagen was "re-mythologising" the Holocaust after decades of painstaking research by other historians.

He argued that the book and its favourable reception in parts of the quality US media, raised more questions about the US than Germany.

"Goldhagen's book leaves questions open. They include questions about the intellectual participation of a society [the US] which sees such things as intellectual progress," he wrote.

Other experts see the book as emblematic of a new generation of Holocaust researchers who, through ignorance and ambition, have turned the clock back to the early, more simplistic anti-German writings of the immediate post-war years.

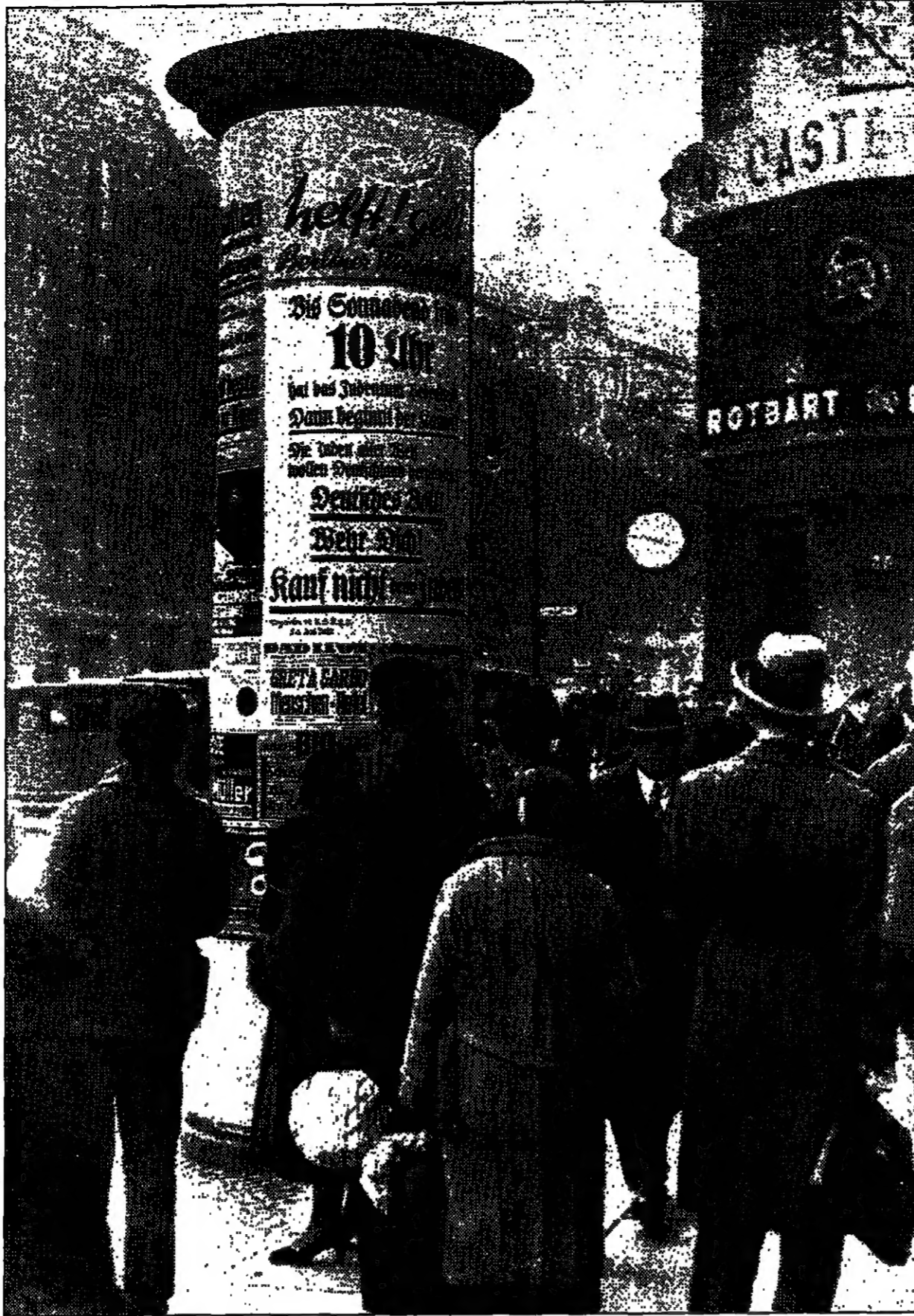
In Britain, the *Guardian* found it "pernicious" and the *Times* described it as the work of a man "who knows and understands nothing".

But Elie Wiesel, the Auschwitz survivor and Nobel prizewinning writer, described it as epochal, revealing troubling truths that the Germans have avoided for too long.

In Germany, the pundits are predicting another round in the acrimonious row between historians of left and right that erupted a decade ago over the evaluation of the Third Reich.

Die Zeit, the liberal weekly, devoted most of its front page and five inside pages to the issue. Rudolf Augstein, co-founder and publisher of the weekly *Der Spiegel*, described Prof Goldhagen yesterday as "ignorant and malicious".

But regardless of the merits



A poster in 1930s Berlin claims that the Jews of the world want to annihilate Germany. Announcing that the "battle" will soon begin, it exhorts the German people: Protect yourself. Don't buy from Jews

or otherwise of Prof Goldhagen's research and argument, the issue of ordinary Germans and their role in the Holocaust still touches raw nerves.

Last year, an exhibition purporting to prove the eager participation of German soldiers in massacring the Jews of eastern Europe — as opposed to the more comfortable proposition that it was the Nazi party apparatus and trained SS killer squads —

provoked an emotional row and a characteristic bout of soul-searching.

Prof Goldhagen's central assertion is that it was the Germans, not the Nazis, who were guilty.

"If the Germans in general are a nation of militarist anti-Semites, conditioned and poisoned by their history, why aren't they still that today, always and forever?" asked Josef Joffe, a prominent Munich journalist.

Norbert Frei, the Berlin historian, dismissed Prof Goldhagen's book as minor, based mainly on secondary research, adding little to the sum of knowledge on Nazism and the Holocaust. He lamented the fact that Prof Goldhagen's original doctoral work, on which the book is based, received a Political Science Association prize in the US.

Historiography of the Holocaust can rarely fail to pro-

duce a row. More troubling perhaps is the suggestion that younger expert opinion on the issues of blame and guilt will increasingly diverge in different countries, with wider repercussions, as the second world war becomes more distant history.

"It is amazing that, in 1996, history can again be presented as anthropology and four decades of research summarily ignored," said Mr Schirmacher.

'If the Germans are poisoned by their history, why aren't they still that today and forever?'

case on CNN, saying that the Holocaust was not facilitated by Hitler and the Nazi system, but by age-old, endemic, German hatred of Jews.

He said that German anti-Semitism was different from that in other countries in that it was "eliminationist", essentially genocidal; that ordinary German fathers, brothers, sons and lovers were not coerced into killing Jews, but did so voluntarily and gleefully.

"A book of radical simplicity," Frank Schirrmacher, the historian, literary critic and co-publisher of the Frankfurt *Allgemeine* newspaper, wrote yesterday.

Neo-fascists storm partisan heartland

Italy's National Alliance is embracing the free market to boost its chances in Sunday's polls, writes **John Hooper** in Fondotoce

JUST outside this village on the shores of Lake Maggiore, there is a long avenue of cypresses, at the far end of which stands an immense cross, higher than the tallest tree. A simple stone commemorates the 42 martyrs of Fondotoce — partisans and their non-combatant helpers, who were rounded up in the nearby mountains and shot here by the Germans in one of the most notorious mass executions of the second world war.

This region of snowy peaks and glittering lakes is littered with monuments to the 1,500 men and women in the province of Novara who died fighting the Nazis in the brief period after Italy made peace with the Allies in 1944.

For Sunday's general election, Fondotoce is in a constituency which roughly coincides with the erstwhile Partisan Republic of Ossola.

Its voters are expected to elect a lifelong neo-fascist as their local MP, Marco Zaccchera, aged 46, who has a boyish face and a ready smile, belonged to the MSI, the movement set up to perpetuate Mussolini's legacy until it was dissolved into the slightly broader National Alliance.

Mr Zaccchera already has a seat in parliament, which he owes to the fact that under Italy's electoral system 25 per cent of the seats in the lower house are chosen by proportional representation. Candidates who are rejected by their constituents for a first-past-the-post seat can still get into the legislature if their party puts them high enough up its proportional representation list.

At the last general election two years ago, Mr Zaccchera won only 16 per cent here, but this time he is confident of topping the poll.

Last week, Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the National Alliance, held a well-attended rally on the banks of the lake, and a ready smile, belonged to the MSI, the movement set up to perpetuate Mussolini's legacy until it was dissolved into the slightly broader National Alliance.

The National Alliance's prospects owe at least as much to Silvio Berlusconi as to Mr Fini. In 1994 his Forza Italia (Come On Italy) party was allied with the Northern League in the north of Italy and with the National Alliance in the south. Now that the League has broken with him, the television magnate has joined forces with Mr Fini and his followers throughout the country.

This is enabling them to stride with confidence into areas with strong fascist traditions. "In the last chamber of deputies, there were 109 National Alliance deputies — 100 from the south and centre, and only nine from the north," said Mr Zaccchera. "This time we intend to even things up."

Offering tax breaks and bureaucratic reforms, he is making a forceful pitch for the business vote. "The Italian state wants to control everything," he said. "If you want to open a shop, you have to get 25 different permits and pay for every one."

This is revolutionary stuff from the representative of a movement whose traditional constituency is among poor southerners, who staff Italy's notorious state apparatus. But Mr Zaccchera believes that if the National Alliance is to achieve its expected gains in

the north, it is going to have to change.

"Events are pushing it in the direction of the free market," he said. His main opponent is not convinced.

The centre-left candidate, Franco Ravandoni, is a Marxist former Christian Democrat, expelled for two years at the start of the 1990s. He is also probably Italy's most popular mayor, having polled 67 per cent in the mountain town of Villadossola at the last election.

"The right is not free market, but monopolistic," he insisted. "Between them, Berlusconi and Fini represent a model of economic development which the rest of Europe rejected long ago — a combination of state intervention and private ownership which will inevitably favour a privileged few at the expense of the rest."

Away from the tourism of Lake Maggiore, there is a surprising amount of industry —



mostly iron, steel and chemical works. In recent years there have been many closures, and it is among the newly unemployed that Mr Ravandoni will be seeking a large share of his vote.

"It looks like a straight contest between the lakeside business community and the mountain working class. But, warns Father Renato Sacco: "I'm not convinced people here will choose their MP purely on the basis of self-interest."

This part of the world has a strong tradition of Christian solidarity. Fr Renato is the sort of priest with a social conscience who brings on dyspepsia in rightwing politicians. On Sunday he aimed a barely veiled rebuke at the National Alliance for depicting itself as the party for which good Catholics should vote.

"I have the duty to remind people that God cannot be used in that way," he said. "The Nazis, too, claimed that 'God is with us'."

If the voters put history to one side and elect Mr Zaccchera, their choice will be seen either as an indication that Italians have failed to learn from their past, or as proof that they have healed the wounds it opened.

The anniversary of the liberation falls four days after polling. On Lake Maggiore, as throughout Italy, there will be a ceremony and mass.

"I shall be going, as I have done for several years now," said Mr Zaccchera. "But if I go as the elected representative of this constituency, it will be a sign that many things in this country have changed."

Blackmailers threaten to spike food with snake venom

Blackmailers threaten to spike food with snake venom

GERMAN authorities said yesterday that blackmailers had threatened to poison with lethal snake venom food in stores across Europe unless they receive diamonds worth a total of DM400 million (£176 million).

Prosecutors in Essen, who are co-ordinating the investigation, said the blackmailers had sent threats since January but that they had not contacted police.

Security sources added that the blackmailers or blackmailers had sent threats to food manufacturers on computer disks.

The sources said it was not clear how serious the threats were, but police last week invited representatives of food firms to Essen to exchange information and give advice.

The threats had not been made public to avoid causing panic or hampering investigations.

Doctors say that if ingested, snake venom can pass harmlessly through the digestive tract, but it could enter the bloodstream through the smallest cuts or bleeding gums with possibly fatal results.

The blackmailers were reported to have demanded diamonds of a specific size and quantity which would make them difficult to trace later.

Did Tony Blair watch the coverage of the golf from Augusta? If so, he will have seen Greg Norman acting out the Labour Party's worst nightmare.

Air strikes plunge Beirut into darkness

David Huret in Beirut

ISRAEL'S Grapes of Wrath operation in Lebanon continued unabated yesterday, with heavy aerial and artillery bombardment of the largely deserted south and west attacks on the capital Beirut.

A power plant was hit yesterday, the second since Sunday's strike on a plant near Beirut. Electricity was only fully restored to the capital three months ago — for the first time since the civil war — and the city is now back on rationing.

The radio station of the South Lebanese Army — which is supported by Israel and has been the source of all earlier warnings — said the Israeli army was planning to widen its "zone of operations" to include the port of Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city.

Hizbullah meanwhile, on the fifth day of the Israeli blitz, continued to fire Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

During the day Israeli planes made more than 30 raids on south Lebanon, especially the Hizbullah stronghold of Iqim Al-Tuffah. The United Nations said about 2,000 artillery shells had fallen in the past 24 hours. The casualty toll has risen to about 30 killed and 120 wounded since the offensive began.

Israeli planes knocked out an anti-aircraft gun in a strike on Beirut's southern suburbs. Two rockets exploded in the late afternoon near the main square in the Mraie neighbourhood, and one crashed into nearby Bir Hassan, the southern entrance to Beirut.

In a first attack on Tyre, most of whose inhabitants fled on Sunday, helicopters

fired four rockets close to the Roman ruins. Nahli Berri, the Shi'ite leader and Speaker of parliament, at a press conference in the city, urged the inhabitants to stay put, but quickly left himself when Israeli jets screamed low overhead.

The southern market town of Nabatiyeh and surrounding villages came under artillery fire earlier in the day. Fuel stations and a bakery went up in flames, and a hospital run by Hizbullah and shops were hit in the nearby deserted town.

Elsewhere in the south, Israeli jets swooped down on suspected guerrilla rocket launchers in the Wadi Qais-ateh valley.

Hizbullah fired six volleys of Katyusha missiles into northern Israel. One hit a synagogue, but there were no casualties.

An Israeli spokesman said that with only two or three missiles being fired at a time, the salvo were diminishing in intensity.

In Beirut, Hizbullah said it was in good military shape and had not yet lost a single "martyr".

In reply to the Israeli government's rejection of ceasefire calls, a Hizbullah source said he could see only one outcome. Israel must go back on its demand for Hizbullah's disarmament, and respect the understanding brokered by the United States that ended the last round of heavy fighting in 1993.

He said Hizbullah, which on Sunday had shown 70 candidates for suicide operations on television, "will use all possible means to defend the Lebanese people, co-ordinating its action with all parties, including Syria".

Leader comment and letters, page 5; Front fruits of a new order, page 2

Israeli raids fail to derail diplomacy

David Huret in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S steady diplomatic progress in the Middle East has been unaffected by its continuing bombardment of south Lebanon.

Yesterday, as the head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) lambasted "aggression" and "terrorist practices", Israel opened a new interests office in Tunis.

Tunisia becomes the fourth Arab state after Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco to establish diplomatic links with Israel.

Other countries moving steadily towards establishing formal ties include Oman and Qatar, which have maintained a discreet silence over Israel's assault on Lebanon.

Israel's closest allies in the region, Egypt and Jordan, have both expressed concern about the action in Lebanon but have stopped well short of formal protests.

Jordan's prime minister, Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti, is due to fly to Israel today to make what most observers believe is a largely symbolic offer to help broker a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Most Arab countries have made a muted response to the fighting, with the predictable exceptions of Iran and Iraq, both of which have issued shrill condemnations.

Even Syria, which will inevitably play a leading role in any ceasefire, has refrained from an all-out attack on Israel's tactics.

On Friday, the second day of the air and artillery assault by Israel against suspected Hizbullah guerrilla positions, a dozen Syrian soldiers in Beirut were wounded when an Israeli helicopter fired on an anti-aircraft position.

Syria has about 35,000 soldiers in Lebanon, and also serves as the conduit for Iranian arms and other supplies to the Shia fighters of Hizbullah.

The scores of Katyusha rockets which Hizbullah has fired into northern Lebanon in retaliation for the bombardment were almost certainly channelled through Syria, with the more than tacit approval of officials in Damascus.

Yet in the opaque world of Middle East diplomacy, the crisis in south Lebanon is widely seen as sustainable, not affecting long-established alliances and trends.

Even the OIC's secretary-general, Hamid al-Gabid, suggested yesterday that the regional peace process would survive.

In a speech to the office of the United Nations human rights commissioner in Geneva, he launched a violent verbal assault on Israel's bombardment, and what he called its "flagrant violation" of peace accords with the Palestinians.

In spite of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, which we rightly support, we note that Israel continues to pursue a repressive and expansionist policy," Mr al-Gabid said.

Turkey's foreign minister, Emre Gonesay, yesterday rejected criticism by Iran and some Arab countries of a military co-operation agreement between his country and Israel.

Turkey responded to the criticism on the eve of a surprise visit by Israel's air force commander.

"Everyone knows that Turkey has no expansionist aims," Mr Gonesay told journalists. "The agreement is geared toward increasing the defence capabilities of Turkey and the defence capabilities of friendly nations."

Under the agreement signed on February 23, Israeli jets will be able to train in Turkish air space.

News in brief

Guerrilla chief granted entry
Israel agreed yesterday to let the guerrilla leader, Nayef Hawatme, once one of its biggest enemies, return to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

"Israel approved the entry of Nayef Hawatme, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine," said Jamil al-Tajir, the Palestinian head of a liaison committee with Israel. "I'm sure it is true," said an Israeli official. — Reuter.

Soldier's rampage
An Indonesian soldier ran wild at remote Timika airport in Irian Jaya yesterday, shooting dead 15 people, including at least 10 military

colleagues, military officials said. — Reuter.

Activists jailed
A state security court in Bahrain has sentenced 10 activists to between one and five years in prison after their conviction on sabotage and arson charges, newspapers reported yesterday. They were accused of taking part in a recent wave of anti-government protests. — AP.

Dog's dinner
A man has been jailed for 11 years for a Prague court for murdering a neighbour who ate his dog, the Czech daily *Mlada Fronta Dnes* said. Miroslav Bartos stangled Josef Opa after Opa and his family were said to have eaten the dog for dinner. — Reuter.

Truth begins in

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Truth hearings begin in S Africa

David Beresford
in East London

THE names of Karl Andrew Webber did not feature prominently in the story of South Africa's liberation struggle but, as he sat yesterday, his mutilated arm held to his chest as the light filtered through stained-glass windows, there was a sense that he had carved out a small place for himself in history.

Three more widows took the stand to tell the story of the "Popo 8", leaders of a Port Elizabeth black civil group summoned to the local airport by a mysterious telephone call to meet a non-existent British consular official and never seen again.

'We are charged to unearth the truth about our dark past, to heal a wounded nation'

She recalled how she had demonstrated with the officer: "He was a person with a vision for the future. He had plans for his life, for his family and his country as a whole. No, not Mandela!" Taken to identify his body, she was confronted by a black policeman who laughed. "They call themselves leaders but they kill themselves," he taunted her.

As the women described their pain - with accounts of the years of struggle raising children without fathers, suffering detention and beatings themselves, and endlessly searching for the truth about what had happened to their loved ones - the commissioner began to run out of time.

Libya's new hawk bares anti-American talons

Libya's new hawk bares anti-American talons

Ten years after the US air strikes, the son of Colonel Gadhafi has rallied public defiance, Kathy Evans in Tripoli reports

LIBYA closed itself to the outside world yesterday as the culmination of a two-day commemoration of the American air raid on both its main cities 10 years ago.

A rally in Tripoli's Green Square attracted fewer than 200 boy scouts, schoolchildren and their teachers. Most of the children, including a group in wheelchairs described as victims of the American F-111 bomber raids on Tripoli and Benghazi, looked too young to have been born by April 16-15 1986, when the attacks killed 84 people.

Seadeh, wearing a smart dark grey suit and a floral tie, gave a short and confident speech, which met with rapt attention. A chip of the old rhetorical block, he declared: "I stand before you as a member of the family of the man who said no to America. Who is the one who killed the policeman in London? Who is the one who bombed the Berlin disco?" Seadeh said, referring to the bombing on April 5 1986 which killed two US servicemen and ostensibly prompted President Reagan to launch the attacks.

Seadeh, 20, described himself to the Guardian as an engineer in the army and said he had no political job. Col Gadhafi had stood out from other Arab leaders in not promoting his sons, but Seadeh's appearances are becoming more frequent. When asked whether he was going to take over from his father, Seadeh smiled

and turned away. But a voice in the audience responded quietly: "His father may be tired, but he's not ready to go yet." The leader did not attend yesterday's ceremonies. After three attempted coups - the latest reported less than two weeks ago - Col Gadhafi's whereabouts are said to be unknown even to his own cabinet. Constantly on the move, with his women bodyguards, he conducts government business by telephone and personal summons.

Deal on bases revamps US-Japan defence ties

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

RESIDENT Bill Clinton arrives in Tokyo today to put the finishing touches to a new defence and security deal with Japan which will preserve the strength of United States forces in the country, but less than what one defence expert calls "the clumsy footprint of the American military".

Taiwan tanks up on defence

TAIWAN is to buy 300 tanks from the United States army to strengthen its defence against China, a newspaper has reported. The United Daily News quoted unidentified military officials on Sunday as saying the M60A2 tanks, which are at least 20 years old, would replace the ageing M48 tanks used by the Taiwanese army.

reluctant host to 75 per cent of US defence facilities in Japan. The bases sprawl across 20 per cent of Okinawa's area. Japanese defence officials warn that there is much to be done before Futenma is handed over, in up to seven years' time. The main condition is that the US military capabilities are not reduced in any way.

Khan all set to enter political arena

Gerald Bourton in Islamabad

MRAN Khan threw down the gauntlet to Pakistan's current prime minister Benazir Bhutto, yesterday by declaring he would launch himself into politics later this month.

Then, at a midnight ceremony that ran into yesterday morning, the colonel unleashed a rising star: his third son, Saadeh. This time, the masses seemed duly impressed. The rally, was a Libyan-style rave-up of live bands and slogans. It was held in the Al-Zawiya barracks in central Tripoli, which houses Col Gadhafi's bombed-out former home, preserved as a museum of the attack.

The truth has finally become clear as day. The Americans can no longer blame Libya for everything, who is the one who killed the policeman in London? Who is the one who bombed the Berlin disco? Seadeh said, referring to the bombing on April 5 1986 which killed two US servicemen and ostensibly prompted President Reagan to launch the attacks.

Aggressive politicisation has undermined the credibility of the judiciary, bureaucracy and police. Parliament is dogged by bickering between the government and the main opposition party, a faction of the Pakistan Muslim League led by a former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

anger was directed at Ms Bhutto. Asked whether it was significant he had not received her when she visited the hospital after Sunday's blast, he replied: "It is very significant. I feel that her government, whether she knows it or not, is responsible for creating so many burdens in the way of this hospital."

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News in brief

Nomads fight bush fire

THOUSANDS of nomads in north-eastern Mongolia are fighting to save their tents and cattle from a huge bushfire, officials said yesterday.

Opera bores Pavarotti's girl

THE other woman in the life of tenor Luciano Pavarotti (left) says she prefers rock music to opera.

Disease fear prompts ban

Muslims from Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso will be barred from making the pilgrimage to Mecca this year because of an outbreak of meningitis in the four states.

Who put left arm in first?

HAS there been bankey-hanky over the creation of the venerable novelty song, the Hokeky Cokky? Nothing is certain, but all is not okay, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles.

RAI soccer score

RAI, the Italian state broadcasting company, regained the rights yesterday to show Italian soccer on its networks after a bid from Cecchi Gori, the media magnate, to take over broadcasting of the country's favourite sport evaporated.

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Riding shotgun... Gunmen in a car adorned with the Liberian flag drive past the US embassy in Monrovia as looting continued in the capital

Sour Grapes of Wrath

Israel's over-reaction harms prospects for peace

HAVE THEY ALL been struck dumb? For five days as Israel intensified its assault on Lebanon the only sound in the White House, the UN Secretary-General's office and Downing Street has been the diplomatic shuffling of awkward feet.

tros-Ghali said that it was "deplorable" for any government to adopt policies which would lead to more refugees and displaced persons.

Israel's action is to be condemned on two clear grounds of principle. First, it goes far beyond the internationally recognised principle of "proportionate response". The right to self-defence to which Mr Portillo refers must be exercised with reasonable restraint.

This is not, unfortunately, the first time that Israel has launched an over-kill operation against the people of Lebanon. The real target is always elsewhere - against Damascus for its toleration of Hizbullah or, on this occasion, to disarm rightwing Likud opposition in the run-up to the Israeli elections.

Mr Peres's political difficulties in the wake of the Hamas bombings have been compounded by Hizbullah. Some response was to be expected but this protracted campaign has an air of desperation.

The cash standing at platform 4

Privatisation's cynical attempt to satisfy punters not passengers

THE ONLY thing about the Railtrack privatisation guaranteed to run on time is the handouts to shareholders. Yesterday's prospectus states that in addition to dividends expected in the current financial year, shareholders will get an unprecedented extra one - worth £59 million - for 1995/6 when Railtrack was still publicly owned.

Street in London (a project which may now be sidelined by the feared short-termism of the new railway owners). Two years ago the City was talking of a £5 billion tag and even that is but a fraction of the real cost.

A privatised Railtrack will have to improve its efficiency (that's shorthand for redundancies) considerably just to satisfy the appetite of its new owners for increased dividends. How it can do that and generate new funds for much needed investment (like CrossRail) without calling on the taxpayer is difficult to contemplate.

The fact that we have experienced similar excesses on previous privatisations should not inure us to the utter cynicism of what is happening. Railtrack has to be sold on the basis of a sure-fire windfall gain because such a deeply flawed and unpopular privatisation couldn't happen with a realistic valuation.

Enter the Norman conqueror

But could Faldo's winning putts be Tony Blair's bunker shot?

GREG NORMAN had never won the US Masters golf championship, but this year he led it from the start. At the end of day one, he was two strokes up on the field. By the second evening his lead was four. After day three he was six strokes clear of his rivals.

Labour Party's worst nightmare. Nothing is worse than to build and sustain a lead and then throw it away to your greatest rival when within sight of a famous victory. It is especially galling when over the years that rival has won almost as often as you have lost.

Golf is a game for strong temperaments. The temptation, sitting at the top of the leader board, is to play safe, eliminate errors, hit sensible irons down the middle of the fairway and lay up on your putts. But that means abandoning the daring which won you the lead in the first place.



Letters to the Editor

Men behaving well

I AM 44 years old and have fathered four sons (Make the father figure, April 12). I have lived through the last 30 years of feminist development. And now I can be thankful that after deconstructing my masculinity, atoning for my patriarchal/authoritarian inheritance, and coming clean about my desire to rape all women, I am now ready to take my place in society again as a "good enough father" who can bring "homosociality" to my sons.

BEATRIX Campbell, the EFF R Leavis of feminism (like him she elevates prejudice to a high moral plane and dresses it in fierce jargon, is always engaging to read, but her attack on Ros Coward is quite intimidating and curiously patriarchal in tone).

ROS Coward gives the impression that "male interests" in these matters are expressed only by paranoid misogynists, and that the majority of women think men should be abolished.

It appeals me that my sons and other young men must attempt to attain self-respect and masculinity in a society that can just about bring itself to see them as objects for "homosocialisation".

ROS Coward confuses one-parent families as being families without fathers. She fails to recognise the role that many men now take through their relationships with single mothers.

SURELY a way forward is not to assume that child care is a gender-specific function. Post-weaning, it doesn't matter much which partner does most of the bread-winning and which does the primary child-care - certainly our six-year-old seems to be unaffected by a reversal of traditional roles.

Taken on board

FOLLOWING your inaccurate story about the Nolan Committee's intentions on pay for quangos' board members (April 11), I must set the record straight. The committee is currently looking at a range of local bodies which receive public funds and provide public services.



Such board members are volunteers. They are not paid at present, except for the chief executive when on the board. There has been a suggestion that payment might be introduced. The committee has been examining this, but the overall weight of evidence has been against it.

IT SEEMS strange that northerners, famous for the warmth of their welcome, should commission a sculptor from the reputedly unfriendly south to greet travellers on the route north (Sculpture of angels to rise before doubling Gordale, April 11). Already promoters of the sculpture are referring to it as a "welcoming angel".

Last year the committee considered the position of board members of executive non-departmental public bodies and of NHS bodies. These are the bodies, generally known as quangos, whose board members are appointed by ministers. Some of these are paid, some are not.

THE design of the statue is similar to two designs that originate from between the world wars. The first is the trade mark of the German car maker 'Rumpler Trofen Auto', builders of early streamlined cars. The other is the emblem of the National Socialist Flying Corps.

LIKE Sir Brian Shaw, my husband chairs main board meetings, and is on all board committees. He represents the organisation at meetings and functions: He is available every work day and contactable at all other times.

EVOLUTIONARY theory has enabled people to be free from the grip of a creator God if they want to. It is, therefore, easy to see why evolution has become the one sacred cow of our society which you criticise at your peril, even if this involves a thoroughly unscientific refusal to consider alternative ways of looking at the evidence.

Israel vs Hizbullah: the propaganda war continues

ISRAELI propaganda draws a distinction between the civilian residents of southern Lebanon and the "terrorist" Hizbullah, with its benign warnings to those unfortunate citizens in the way of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

IT IS of course tragic that 1400,000 people are now fleeing from their homes in southern Lebanon, as Israeli warplanes step up their now daily attacks. It is equally tragic that over a week ago, all women and children, two-thirds of the local population, were evacuated from their homes in northern Israel.

It is of some comfort that, for the most part, the western media have not automatically gone along with the official Israeli line. The damage on the ground in terms of property and people has been reported in detail in a way that was not always possible during the Gulf war.

The refugees of war are the human angle of any story, and reporting of the evacuation of innocent people on one side of the war only accounts for willfully biased reporting.

In this context, Derek Brown's foregrounding of the moral and military imbalance ignored by many reporting the current violence (Some war victims more equal than others, April 15) is especially welcome. Shimon Peres owes a vote of thanks to those responsible for last week's Katyusha attacks on northern settlements. He can now wage displaced war on Hamas via the Hizbullah in Lebanon.

THE primary cause of Hizbullah's militancy is not that "Israel maintains its foothold inside southern Lebanon more than 10 years after it withdrew from the rest," as asserted in your leader (April 15). The prime cause is Islamic fundamentalism - Hizbullah is merely a branch of this, as is Hamas and Islamic Jihad. There is no reason to believe that Hizbullah's rocket attacks on northern Israel would stop if Israel evacuated southern Lebanon.

A charitable view of the TECs

YOU were alarmist in reporting the Inland Revenue and Oldham TEC case into whether the TEC is a charity (Taxpayers face £50m bill, April 11). It anticipated "an exodus by business people from TEC boards because they would face much more onerous personal liabilities" if the charitable status is upheld.

rule as for commercial companies. In the real world these risks are tiny. Cases of personal liability on charity-law grounds are as rare as the white eagle. Indeed, because charities operate within a regime of prudence, these risks are very much less than with commercial entities.

As co-advisers to Oldham TEC, allow me to say that that perpetuates a widespread misunderstanding. Directors of charitable companies are, broadly put, only exposed to personal liability if they allow their charity to act beyond its purposes, or to engage in wrongful trading (the same

Finally, the Charity Commission is hardly likely to seek to punish innocent directors when the commission laboured under the same misapprehension. Andrew Phillips, Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, Solicitors, 61 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6HA.

A Country Diary

TIKAL, Guatemala: The large department of El Peten, in the north east corner of Guatemala, is a complete contrast to the country's cool and mountainous highlands to the south, and the steamy Pacific slope in the west. In El Peten vast areas of dense jungle cover the landscape, hiding small farming villages and forest hamlets.

ing, dart from branch to branch in their search for fruiting trees; the unmistakable Keel-billed Toucan with its large canoe-shaped bill; Ocellated Turkey in shining iridescent plumage; and the tiny humming-birds flashing from flower to flower, with such wonderful names as Purple-crowned Fairy and Wedge-tailed Sabrewing. The forest mammals are far more discreet, the only sign of their presence usually being the rustle of leaves or a snapping twig, although occasionally a small Agouti or White-tailed Deer will cross a trail in front of you. The animal that announces itself in the most alarming way is the Mexican Black Howler Monkey, named for the ferocious voice which echoes through the forest at sunrise and sunset like the roar of an angry jaguar. The male has a throat sac that acts as a resonator and amplifies its calls, which can carry for more than a mile through the jungle.

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

Bank revives rates battle

Cash hoard seen as inflation threat

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE Bank of England is preparing for a renewed battle with the Government over interest rates after posting a public warning yesterday that strong growth in the money supply poses a threat to the fight against inflation.

Bank was concerned that the strong expansion of cash and bank accounts reflected pent-up spending power which could be unleashed over the coming months.

National Statistics showed that the winter slowdown in the economy prevented Britain's manufacturers from pushing up their tariffs. Output prices rose by 0.3 per cent in March, bringing the annual rate of increase down from 3.7 per cent to 3.4 per cent, the lowest level since December 1994. Excluding food, drink, tobacco and petrol — a better guide to the trend — prices remained unchanged last month, but dropped slightly on an annual basis to 3.4 per cent.

Evidence that the weakness of demand is keeping factory gate prices in check is underlined by a gloomy forecast today from the Building Employers Confederation, which predicts that 20,000 more jobs will be lost this year as a result of the recession in the construction industry.

Some support for the Bank's anxiety about rising consumer demand emerged, however, from the monthly survey by the British Retail Consortium. High street activity strengthened last month, even after the earlier incline of Easter this year was stripped out, the BRC said.

Mr Davies denied that policy was "excessively cautious", and added: "Nor do I think we can reasonably be accused of facing backwards and fighting exhausted armies from the past. Inflation may not be resurgent, but I am reluctant confidently to pronounce its obituary."

Notebook

Death notice may be exaggerated



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE death of inflation, as propagated by Roger Boodle of BBFC Markets, is an interesting theory, gaining new adherents all the time. Indeed, the latest producer price figures — the lowest annual rate since December 1994 — would appear to confirm the Boodle thesis.

respects the Government has been ill-advised by SBC-Warburg, which has bent over backwards to ensure it does not have a flop on its hands.

With each succeeding intervention by the Labour Party, the taxpayers' benefit from the sale — in the shape of PSBR reduction — is pared back. The irony now is that as Labour ups the political ante, with a poster campaign and the insistence on a Commons debate, it may also increase the eventual costs for Railtrack's substantial investment programme.

For those prepared, however, to put the moral outrage to one side and consider Railtrack's possibilities in the private sector, the prospects could be quite alluring. It is a classic utility business with possibilities for ratcheting down costs through new technologies such as modern signalling systems, ending Spanish practices in the labour force and outsourcing some services.



60,000 recent savers reap windfall

IAN KING on Bristol & West's new deal

SPECULATORS who have only just opened accounts with Bristol & West Building Society, as well as investors with less than £100 in their accounts, are set to receive windfalls after the society confirmed yesterday it had agreed to a £600 million takeover by Bank of Ireland.

The Woolwich, which last month dismissed chief executive Peter Robinson, Finance & Leicester and Northern Rock have all announced plans to float on the stock market, promising similar payouts to members.

But unlike the other three, Bristol & West will not be restructuring the terms of its payout to savers and borrowers will receive up to £1,000.

John Burke, Bristol & West's chief executive, said borrowers and investors with share accounts at the start of business yesterday would receive at least £250. This includes the estimated 60,000 speculators who have opened accounts since the start of the year.

Another bidder might have topped up to at least £100 by the end of the year. Mr Burke said: "These are loyal members who have played an important part in the growth of the organisation, and they should be given the chance to build up their accounts. Morally, I feel happier with that than with rewarding speculators."

Chief executive Mike Jackson, who has been tipped to replace Mr Robinson at the Woolwich, said: "We regret having to raise the limit. I am not talking to the Woolwich or anyone connected with it, but this wave of new business, brought about by idle speculation and rumour, has dramatically affected service standards."



It could be you... Bristol & West's John Burke (left) and Bank of Ireland's Patrick Molloy announce big wins for the speculators PHOTOGRAPH BY FIONA HANSON

Nomura defends £250m sell-off

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

NOMURA intends to fight allegations that it manipulated the Sydney stock market, after questioning one of its traders involved in selling \$250 million worth of Australian shares just before the market closed on March 29 — the financial year-end for the Tokyo-based institution.

formal inquiry because of the way the share "dumping" hit prices just before the market's close.

Nomura yesterday declined to comment. But it is thought to have told the Sydney authorities that the March 29 share sale was routine and that it was not involved in any irregular practices.

The Australian authorities were alerted after there was a sudden drop in the benchmark Sydney All Ordinaries index at a time when Nomura's Hong Kong operations had instructed Australian brokers to sell more than A\$450 million worth of shares.

Pace set to make millions at mill for its founders

Michelle Barnister
Technology Editor

PACE Micro Technology, a leading maker of decoders for satellite and cable television, is coming to the market later this year in a move which will make multi-millionaires of its founders, David Hood and Barry Rubery.

post nine months. Pre-tax profits during the period totalled £9 million as sales rose to £126 million. The company is expected to be worth well over £200 million when dealing in its shares starts in May or June. This is likely to value Mr Hood's stake in the company at at least £130 million and Mr Rubery's at £90 million.

Names 'furious' over secret clawback deal with Lloyd's

Pauline Springett

AFURIOUS row has erupted among Lloyd's Names over an application today for the adjournment of a critical court case to decide if Lloyd's is allowed to seize compensation payments made by courts to Names over their losses.

start tomorrow, but Lloyd's said yesterday it would apply for an adjournment today. A spokesman said it had the approval of the main defendant, David Woodard, as well as the Litigating Names Committee.

The furor centres on a secret deal understood to have been struck last week between one of the key Names group leaders, Michael Deeny, and Lloyd's chairman David Rowland.

But Damon de Lezio, chairman of the Fabricra action group, which has also been successful in the courts and has £125 million in an escrow account, said the negotiations between the action groups and Lloyd's were continuing in good faith.

Regulator says big investors don't need outside policing

Den Atkinson

SOME of Britain's biggest fund managers could take responsibility for regulating themselves, freeing City supervisors to concentrate on problem cases and on firms dealing in highly speculative derivative products.

After a year of record bids and mega-seals, for instance, no one seems to have been disciplined for insider dealing, by the DTI or Stock Exchange, since 1994. This is because time, technical breaches of impenetrable City rules books have besmirched the names of some of the country's top and most trustworthy financial institutions.

City awakening

IT IS 10 years since the City's system of self-regulation was introduced. Finally, much to the bemusement of those of us who have chronicled examples of City excess over the period, one of the Square Mile's "smoke" technologies has admitted the system doesn't work.

THE Railtrack pathfinder, with its 263 pages of small print, is filled with items that will shock the sensibility of those who believe in a fair Britain.

There are sweat-soaked housing loans to directors (now repaid), an overgenerous bonus scheme and a long-term incentive plan which could result in remuneration packages doubling as the cost savings come through. This is before one starts to grapple with the intricacies of a property portfolio that can be valued at £1.4 billion, if working as well as investment property is intended.

Regulator says big investors don't need outside policing

Den Atkinson

SOME of Britain's biggest fund managers could take responsibility for regulating themselves, freeing City supervisors to concentrate on problem cases and on firms dealing in highly speculative derivative products.

After a year of record bids and mega-seals, for instance, no one seems to have been disciplined for insider dealing, by the DTI or Stock Exchange, since 1994. This is because time, technical breaches of impenetrable City rules books have besmirched the names of some of the country's top and most trustworthy financial institutions.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8450	France 7.46	Italy 2.822	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.41	Germany 2.2050	Malta 0.5360	South Africa 1.80
Belgium 42.25	Greece 332.02	Netherlands 2.47	Spain 164.00
Canada 1.9925	Hong Kong 11.45	New Zealand 2.16	Sweden 9.79
Cyprus 0.7025	India 51.61	Norway 8.57	Switzerland 1.96
Denmark 6.58	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 257.00	Taiwan 105.806
Finland 7.16	Israel 4.71	Saudi Arabia 5.62	USA 1.4723

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding interim rates and Israeli shekel).

OUTLOOK/
Railtrack won't profit if more passengers take the train and faces a stiff battle to cut labour costs — but it is hot in property, finds **Chris Barrie**



John Edmonds, Railtrack chief executive, Bob Horton, chairman, and Norman Broadhurst, finance director, at yesterday's pathfinder prospectus launch

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN SMITH

Big spender priced to sell

IN one of those ironies particular to politics, the Newbury bypass protests are being cited in the City as one of the few recent headline events to help the privatisation of Railtrack, owner of the nation's railway lines and stations.

Logic within the Square Mile holds that protests such as Newbury's make it more difficult to win planning permission for motorways. As congestion worsens, so rail

traffic should increase and Railtrack's principal source of revenue should rise accordingly. This optimism is strikingly absent from the pathfinder prospectus published yesterday. The 250-page document warns potential investors that "passenger access income is unlikely to benefit materially from any increase in passenger demand".

This is partly because rail use is expected to rise, albeit by a lowly 2 per cent a year, in line with travel generally, but to the benefit of the companies running the trains. There is considerable scope for train companies to reschedule services to soak up that amount of extra demand without negotiating further track access which would bring Railtrack more cash.

There is hefty spending ahead too. Railtrack has pencilled in spending of \$2.25 billion to maintain track, \$761 million to maintain stations and depots, and \$237 million on day-to-day maintenance. As if to emphasise the crumbling nature of the railway infrastructure, the prospectus points out the company is responsible for bridges, viaducts, tunnels, embankments, cuttings, retaining walls, culverts and sea defences. "Many were constructed more than 100 years ago," it says.

Investors are being invited to buy into a company with limited prospects for growth. Looking backwards, investors have seen rail's share of the market for personal transport fall from 17 per cent in 1964 to 5 per cent in 1994/95. Looking forwards, the outlook may well be brighter — both political parties support more rail use.

The Government and its advisers have done their best to kickstart the deal by offering investors a dividend. In the autumn, of \$29 million paid from profits earned while the company was in state hands. By pricing the retail offer at a discount to the institutional price, ministers hope to woo investors uneasy about the railway industry's poor image. Priced to sell, the company once valued at \$8 billion is now being touted at about \$1.8 billion.

Yet investors may find Railtrack's incentivised managers unearthing fresh value from the company's portfolio of 20,000 miles of track, 40,000 bridges and viaducts and tunnels, 2,500 stations and 90 maintenance depots. The prospectus is littered with warnings about the need for hefty investment to maintain this infrastructure, but there is huge potential for cost cutting and property sale.

What emerges, therefore, is a classic utility but without the risks of unstable regulation which troubled, at times, water and electricity shares on their otherwise meteoric rise. Unlike these industries,

rail has been operating under its regulator for some time prior to privatisation and there should be fewer regulatory hiccups. Its chairman, Bob Horton, spoke yesterday of how Railtrack hoped to cut costs by signing new contracts with contractors and improving efficiency. Staff levels and working practices must come top of Railtrack's list. Other utilities have cut staff by over 25 per cent since privatisation, but Railtrack may face a rougher industrial relations battle.

Labour's commitment to using the existing regulatory structure to tighten its grip on Railtrack threatens the company's profitability. The gamble for investors is in deciding whether new Labour has the will to be genuinely tough, assuming it comes to power.

BRISTOL & WEST

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS OF BRISTOL & WEST

As you may already know, the Board of the Bristol & West Building Society yesterday announced that it intends to recommend to Members that Bristol & West should become part of Bank of Ireland Group.

Customers of Bristol & West are being sent a Notice explaining the reasons for the decision together with a leaflet, *Answers to Your Questions*.

A free Information Line has been set up on 0800 886633. Lines will be open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays.

Full details about the transaction will be circulated in due course in a Transfer Document for consideration at a Special General Meeting of the Society when eligible Members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal.

Members should note, however, that no decisions are to be taken on this matter at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 19 April 1996.

News in brief

Norwich calls vote on membership cut-off

NORWICH UNION will be asking its three million members at the May annual meeting to vote on giving the society the option of introducing a cut-off date for membership. If the UK's second largest mutual insurer decided to become a public limited company at a later date, this would exclude last-minute investors who had joined to cash in on conversion payouts. Chief executive Allan Bridgewater stressed yesterday that the amendment was simply a place of "prudent contingency planning" and did not imply any decision had been taken to demutualise. The group's future strategy, including the possibility of a flotation, was still under review, he said. No decision would be announced until "well into 1996". The amendment was necessary, he said, because the directors of a mutual insurer, unlike those in building societies, do not have the authority to introduce a cut-off date. — *Jill Papworth*

Texas boss collects £7m

LADBROKE, the leisure and gambling group, paid more than £80,000 for the first nine months of last year to John Coleman, the Texas Homecare chief who resigned when his job was eliminated after the business was sold to Sainsbury. Mr Coleman was paid £200,000 for his contribution to the sale of the DIY operation, £100,000 compensation for loss of office and £105,000 in long-term incentives, Ladbroke said in its annual report. His basic salary was £140,000. He has also been given dispensation to exercise share options in the year to next September. With Ladbroke shares up 1 1/2p at 150p yesterday, the options would yield just over £22,000 profit. — *Lisa Buckingham*

Nigeria a 'fraud hotspot'

THREE-QUARTERS of British firms would not do business in Nigeria because of its reputation for fraud, according to a survey of "fraud hotspots". One-quarter said the same about eastern Europe, Russia and other parts of the former Soviet bloc. The survey, carried out by the accountancy firm KPMG through its offices in 18 countries, found the United States, Italy and Singapore were rated by international companies as potential fraud risks. More than half of those questioned said they knew of at least one incident of fraud in their organisations in the past year. Forty-eight per cent said fraud was a big problem, with more than half expecting the problem to worsen. — *Dan Atkinson*

Oil for troubled waters

EUROPE'S biggest oil company, Shell, which was pilloried last year for the attempted sinking of the Brent Spar oil rig and its involvement in Nigeria, admits in its annual report that it needs to gain a better understanding of the world. Writing in the annual report to shareholders, published yesterday, chairman John Jennings says: "We learned in 1995 that we need to have greater external focus if we are to create a better acceptance of the group's business... Group companies must inform and communicate better with the public." Referring to the group's "licence to operate", Mr Jennings writes: "The events of the past year demonstrated the need to gain broader understanding and acceptance of our activities." Mr Jennings defends Shell's refusal to get involved in the fight to save the life of Ogoni campaigners led by Ken Saro-Wiwa: "Whereas there are those who criticise the group for non-interference in Nigeria, there is also considerable opinion that finds political interference unacceptable." — *Roger Coote*

Amye on right lines

AMEY, the management and maintenance services group, ended its second year as a listed company with a rise in profit from £5.12 million to £5.33 million. Chairman Neil Ashley said the group had no debts and was able to respond quickly to business opportunities. The largest acquisition to date, Amey Railways, was being funded without asking shareholders for cash and Mr Ashley believed that it would enhance the group's earnings per share. — *Tony May*

Hardy shoots set to thrive

HARDY Oil & Gas is in talks aimed at expanding its portfolio of oil and gas fields, after selling its US operations for £115 million to a new firm called Acquirer, backed by Enron Corp. Chairman Douglas Baker said the cash raised from the sale would help to develop its three main fields: in the North Sea, Bayu in the Timor Sea and Miano in Pakistan. He also aims to strengthen the group's hand in talks to expand elsewhere. Mr Baker said the decision to get out of the US market — though the group does retain options over various Gulf of Mexico opportunities — had been taken because the cash could be used better in funding other projects. — *Tony May*

Swab owner has new targets

THE American company which bought South Western Electricity for £1.1 billion in September last year expects to have sold nearly half the company within the next two months. Bill Dahlberg, president and chairman of Atlanta-based Southern Company of America, said his company would retain control of Swab and reinvest the proceeds in "other quality companies". Mr Dahlberg, interviewed on the BBC's Financial World Tonight programme, did not rule out buying another British electricity or water company. He refused to comment on a possible bid for South West Water, already targeted by Wessex Water and Severn Trent. — *Nicholas Bannister*

No home for Thatcher's children

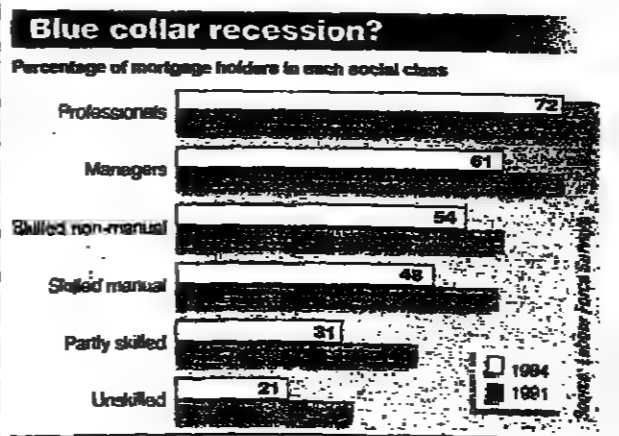
LARRY ELLIOTT shows how new pattern of work has upset housing market

FOR some of those families trapped in negative equity, today's news from estate agents that the housing market is at its strongest for two years may be the answer to their prayers. If the evidence of higher turnover detected by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors translates into a sustained period of rising prices it will bring succour by floating a chunk of the million or so hard-pressed families out of debt. Beguiling though this idea is, it has two main drawbacks. The first is that it is far too early to say whether the current signs of a pick-up in the housing market are the harbingers of a real recovery or simply another false dawn. The second is that for many homeowners, any improvement in market conditions will be too little too late. Yoking these two factors together is the way the housing market has changed over the past 15 years in response to the increase in owner-occupation, financial deregulation and the shifting sands of the labour market. New evidence published today by the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick provides a summary of what has happened since the Conservatives were first elected in 1979. Funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the

paper argues that the missionary zeal with which the first Thatcher government promoted the sale of council houses meant that during the 1980s "mortgages were increasingly granted to socio-economic groups for whom this form of housing finance had not been the norm in the decades earlier". This trend was accelerated by financial deregulation, which brought an end to the old mortgage quotas. In the five years from 1981 to 1985, the number of home loans granted to first-time buyers virtually doubled from 318,000 to 619,000, thereby fuelling house-price inflation. The IER says the increase in activity was self-feeding, because potential borrowers felt they had to jump on the bandwagon or risk being priced out of the market.

When prices started to fall, from the end of the 1980s, the third factor kicked in. Mortgages are normally taken out for a 25-year period, which means that owner-occupiers need job security, but the past 15 years have seen a structural change in the labour market. The IER report says that historically, possession of a mortgage and employment each tend to reinforce each other, partly because of the incentive to keep up the payment and partly because the benefit system is more generous to tenants than to owner-occupiers. But this relationship has started to break down, particularly for those former council house tenants attracted to owner-occupation by the right-to-buy programme. Despite all the cries of anguish from the

middle classes over the past few years, the IER report concludes that the recession of the 1990s was little different from any of those that preceded it, with "the collar workers" bearing the brunt of the unemployment. It adds that the transfer of former local authority homes to owner-occupiers would represent a net gain to society, provided that it resulted in the general standard of the maintenance of the housing stock being improved. "But, if real incomes and job security have not improved for those groups who would normally have opted for local authority housing, then the net result is nothing more than an exchange of the travail associated with a council house tenancy for the anguish of realising difficult-to-meet mortgage repayments." The economic consequence of this imminent disaster was the surge in repossessions in the early 1990s. The Government is committed to a trio of objectives — deregulated labour markets, increasing home-ownership and diminished help for the unemployed — that are quite simply incompatible. Something has to give. The political implication looks as if it will be equally profound. Thatcher's children feel betrayed: they are looking for somewhere else to pitch their tents.



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Racing

Mezzogiorno for Nell Gwyn

Ron Cox says Wragg filly might prove a Classic contender

EIGHT 1,000 Guineas entries do battle in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket today, but it will take something rather special from the winner to cause anything other than a minor tremor in ante-post betting on the first fillee Classic.

Wild Rumour, from the Chapple-Ryan stable successful with Mysak last year, is one of them. But she may have a brighter future over longer trips.

Bint Salsabil, so disappointing at Doncaster when deserted by Willie Carson, bounced back to win the Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket in October. She may also be one of a stayer.



Under the gun... a field of 50,000 lines up for the 100th Boston Marathon, won by Kenya's Moses Tanui and Uta Fippig of Germany

Kenya's Boston 1-2-3 party

Duncan Mackay in Boston

BOSTON has not enjoyed a party like this since a crate of tea was thrown into the harbour just over 200 years ago.

Indeed Kenya's decision to hold their Olympic trials within this event made it inevitable that Africans would dominate the race. Kenyans filled seven of the first 10 places including the top five, with Sammy Bitok second and Cosmas Ndeti, chasing an unprecedented fourth consecutive title, third.

Uta Fippig of Germany prevented Kenya's monopoly extending to the women's race when she caught and passed Tegla Lorup within sight of the finish. Her winning time of 2:27.12 was the slowest of her three victories, yet she is the first woman ever to win this race three years in a row.

Two million spectators, enjoying the sunshine on Patriots' Day - a holiday honouring the historic ride of Paul Revere at the start of the American revolution - lined the 26.2-mile route to watch an electrifying duel.

In the women's race, Lorup crumbled as badly as Greg Norman did at Augusta. She was 200 metres up when two miles left before she hit the wall. Fippig, who had given up victory after a mid-race stomach problem, got a second wind and brought past, blowing kisses and making faces for the television cameras.

Sport in brief

England drop Preatn

CAROL PREATN and Chen Xinhua, the two table tennis players who have qualified for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in July, were yesterday excluded from the squad to defend England's bronze medal position at the European Championships in Bratislava from April 28, writes Richard Jago.

Preatn has refused to play for England all season and Chen has returned to live in Pukien, taking his Yorkshire wife and children to China with him.

Athletics

Iwan Thomas, the 6ft 3in Welshman, raced to fourth in the all-time UK 100 metres rankings with a 44.88sec victory at a meeting in Johannesburg. Only the British record holder David Grindley (44.47), the now retired Derek Redmond (44.50) and Roger Black (44.59) have run faster.

South Korea's Hwang Youngjo, winner of the marathon at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, is retiring because he did not win a place in the team for this year's Games. Last month, running with an ankle injury, he finished 29th in a competition to select the team.

Basketball

Worthing's Alan Cunningham, who has won every major honour in the English game, is to retire at the end of the season. The 41-year-old, who had a successful spell in charge of the Bears from 1992 to 1995, is to resurrect his coaching in 1996.

Newmarket with form for the televised events

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 2.00 CONCORDANT MAIDEN STAKES and 2.25 STYCHOUS MAIDEN STAKES.

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 3.05 ANNESTOWN STAKES and 3.40 SHADWELL STUD NELL GWYN STAKES.

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 4.05 NEWBURY STAKES and 4.45 NEWBURY STAKES.

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 5.10 NEWBURY STAKES and 5.45 NEWBURY STAKES.

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 6.05 NEWBURY STAKES and 6.40 NEWBURY STAKES.

Hexham National Hunt card

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 2.10 Royal Brougham and 2.45 Hesperus.

Folkestone runners and riders

Table with columns for race number, name, and details. Includes races like 1.20 VIKING CONQUEST and 1.50 VIKING CONQUEST.

Results

Table with columns for race number, name, and results. Includes races like 1.05 ANNESTOWN STAKES and 1.40 ANNESTOWN STAKES.

Results

Table with columns for race number, name, and results. Includes races like 1.05 ANNESTOWN STAKES and 1.40 ANNESTOWN STAKES.

RACELINE COMMENTARY logo and text.

Soccer

Beresford regrets 'madness'

Michael Walker and Ian Ross

JOHN BERESFORD, after his very public disagreements with Kevin Keegan at St James' Park, offered his manager an equally public apology yesterday.

has done for this club." Beresford has now responded - "I spoke to the gaffer after the game and he's been better with me than I had any right to expect" - but the Newcastle public will see by tomorrow night's line-up what Keegan now thinks of his left-back.



Marshall law... the Arsenal defender gets to grips with the Tottenham striker Chris Armstrong during the match at Highbury last night

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

United decide on no more grey days

lan Ross on yesterday's decision to drop the strip that rendered the players invisible

THE more devoted among Manchester United's admirers were left, amid "rip-off" accusations, to dig deep into their pockets again yesterday when the curious case of the invisible grey shirts was fronted out.

the embarrassed manufacturers Umbro. It was announced that United had suffered one grey day too many. Their chances of a third Premiership title in four seasons were dented when they lost 3-1 to a team courting disaster all season.

the home shorts and a change white sock. Supporters contemplating rebellion at the thought of yet another replica kit were told by United's chairman Martin Edwards: "The plan that we have now finalised means that we will wear a new shirt next season when appropriate and a gesture to our supporters we will offer a significant discount of £10 on that shirt."

Arsenal's third time of asking may take Stubbs to Highbury

BOLTON's impending relegation from the Premier League has prompted a re-opening of negotiations with Arsenal over the Burnden Park club's most valuable asset, the captain Alan Stubbs.

Chris Plummer, 18-year-old defender, has sat on Rangers' bench three times this season but has yet to play in the first team. O'Connor, also 18, can play at right-back as well as in central defence. He made his Premier League debut against Manchester United in February, and has added three more appearances.

Rugby League

Referees overlord rounds on coaches

Paul Fitzpatrick

GREG McCALLIUM, the referees' controller, confirmed yesterday that John Connolly had made an error in the game at Watersheddings on Saturday night when Oldham inflicted a fourth successive Super League defeat on Leeds.

Connolly made a critical decision late in the second half at Watersheddings when he sent the young Leeds full-back Anthony Gibbons to the sin-bin for ball stealing, which is no longer an offence in one-on-one tackles.

Connolly made a mistake but his error rate in the game was significantly less than that of some players involved in the match," said McCallium.

"This is not an international law nor does it exist in the Australian domestic competition. Yet, despite match officials correctly ruling that the substitution could not take place, criticism was rife after the game."

pected to be announced soon. The cup is likely to remain in the calendar, though future finals could be played in May.

Badminton

England strike bronze

Richard Jago in Herring

ENGLAND won the bronze medal for the fifth time in a row at the European Championships when they beat Russia 5-0 here yesterday. The win represented an excellent recovery after the mauling they had received from Denmark on Sunday.

Simon Archer and Julie Bradbury defeated Nikolai Zuev and Marina Yakusheva 15-8, 15-6 to give England just the start they needed and could have provided against Denmark.

"The Danes have an outstanding team and we would have liked to have been in the other group with Sweden," England's manager Ciro Cingillo said. "But by winning this it should put us into the other group next time with a better chance of getting to the final."

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for Division, Team, and Odds. Includes sections for First Division, Second Division, and Third Division.

Results

Table listing sports results including Soccer, Golf, Badminton, Basketball, and Ice Hockey.

Soccer

Table listing soccer match results with team names and scores.

Golf

Table listing golf tournament results with player names and scores.

Badminton

Table listing badminton match results with player names and scores.

Basketball

Table listing basketball match results with team names and scores.

Ice Hockey

Table listing ice hockey match results with team names and scores.

Chess

Table listing chess tournament results with player names and scores.

Teamtalk advertisement featuring 'The Independent News and Reports Service' and a list of sports teams with associated odds.

Advertisement for 'Sport' magazine, including contact information and a list of featured sports news items.

Advertisement for 'Sport' magazine, including contact information and a list of featured sports news items.

Advertisement for 'EURO 96' football tournament, featuring 'FOOTBALL HOME' branding and contact information.

giant

look at

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THE MASTERS VICTORY THAT EVEN SADDENED THE WINNER



Bowing to the pressure... another bad tee shot and Norman shows signs of strain during his disastrous final round at Augusta National

A giant tested to destruction

David Davies at Augusta reflects on the most extraordinary and harrowing collapse ever seen in the final round of a major

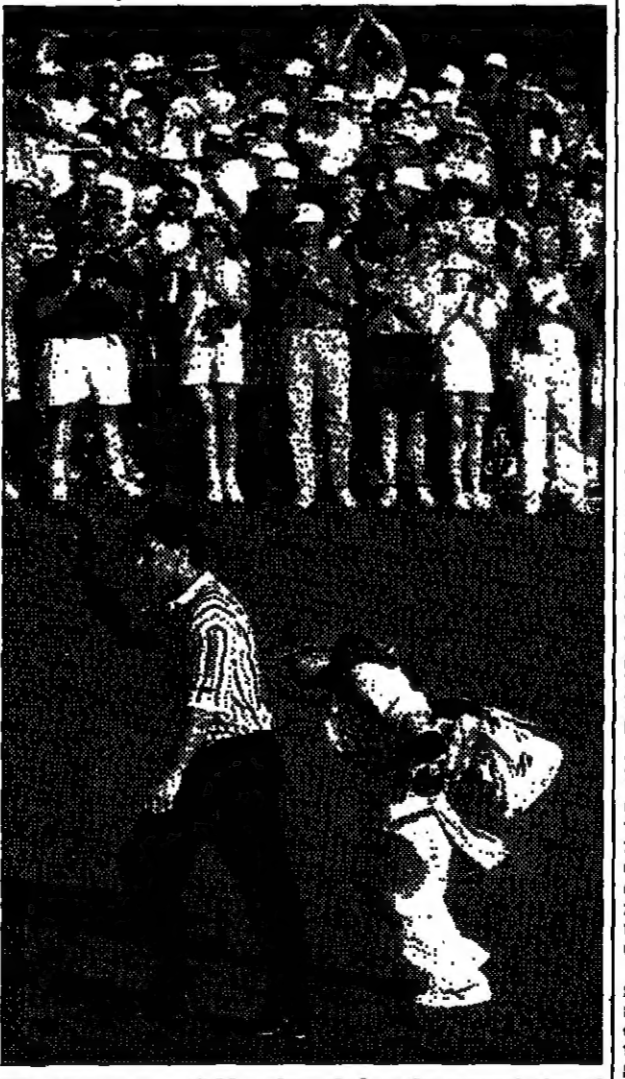
ONE awful, almost unthinkable, statistic says it all. This was the worst collapse by anyone, ever, going into the final day of any major championship. By losing a six-stroke overnight lead, as did Greg Norman on Sunday at the US Masters, the Australian acquired the most damning entry of all in the history books: the man who led by the most and still managed to lose. It was a desperately depressing sight. No championship has ever been won in a more profound silence. No champion, surely, has ever walked up the 18th fairway, as did Nick Faldo, with a four-stroke lead and certain of victory, feeling sadness rather than elation. No green coat has ever been earned with less euphoria than this one and no closing moments have ever been more tearful. What was witnessed was the complete disintegration of a champion golfer. Five players have held a five-stroke lead going into the final round of a major, including Ed Sneed in the 1979 Masters, and lost. Arnold Palmer, in the 1969 US Open at the Olympic Club, built a seven-shot lead over the first nine holes of the final round and lost. But no one has ever come close to what Norman did, for he not only lost his six-stroke lead, he turned it into a five-

stroke deficit with his final six-over-par round of 78. Faldo, with a round of 67, did enough to plead, justifiably, that he hoped the 1996 Masters would be remembered for his good play. There was then a pause, before he added: "But I know it's going to be remembered for what happened to Greg." In fact Faldo had recognised this much earlier, on the 18th green, the moment the final putts were holed. It is a time for victor and vanquished to look each other in the eye, to shake hands and say "Well done". Faldo, though, had difficulty in looking Norman in the eye for the simple reason that he was crying. He had prepared some words, but they did not come out. Eventually he blurted: "I don't know what to say. I just want to give you a hug." With that, the two embraced and Norman began to cry, too. In the clubhouse was Nick Price, Norman's best mate. He had been watching on television but eventually he broke away. "This is upsetting," he said. "It hurts to watch. It's making me sick to my stomach," and all those who heard him not only knew what he meant but felt it as well. There is a reason for this. Greg Norman is a popular guy. He believes in the Australian ethic of "mate-ship", in clapping a man on the back, taking a few beers and

Norman hitting a final round of 78, and in 1993 he threw out the second extra hole to lose a play-off with Azinger. Norman has won the Open twice. It surely should have been at least three for in 1989, in a play-off with Mark Calcavecchia and Wayne Grady, he had the thing won before he took three from the edge of the 17th and then drove into a bunker at the 18th. He finished up going out of bounds, never completing the hole. Look carefully at those mis-

erable moments and it can be seen that Norman holds another sad statistic. He is the only man to lose a play-off for all four major championships. But whatever else, the man is both a survivor and a supremely good loser. The crucial point that follows that latter assertion is that he has had the practice, for Sunday's demise was his 32nd second-place finish. That, though, is unkind, for many never learn the kind of graciousness in defeat that seems to come naturally to Norman. Only Jack

Nicklaus has come close. It was that quality that enabled Norman to give one of the outstanding press conferences on Sunday night. His words speak for themselves. "I screwed up today, of course I did, I really screwed up. But it's not the end of the world for me, it's really not. God, I'd love to be putting on a green jacket but I'm not going to fall off the face of the earth. Life's going to continue." He went on: "You know, I'm secure for the rest of my life, my kids will be secure and so will the kids' kids. I think that's the most important thing, that I've been able to do something for my family and for the future generations of my family that nobody's ever been able to do before — to set up something that will endure hundreds of years down the line. That's what makes me feel great."



Winning wave... Faldo acknowledges the appreciative, if muted, applause at the 18th

The Major contenders

Table with 5 columns: Majors, Nick Faldo, US Open, Open, US PGA. Lists names of golfers and their performance in various majors.

In the 1994 US Open he played awfully well, made three holes and then lost a play-off to Fuzzy Zoeller, and two years later there was Shinnecock when he was again the third-round leader. The US PGA has seen some distressing sights, too. In 1988 Bob Tway holed a bunker shot at the 18th to win, with

Rugby Union

Pugh threat to England

Robert Armstrong on a World Cup warning from Wales

ENGLAND'S prospects of staging matches in the 1999 World Cup were cast into serious doubt yesterday. Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, refused to give an unconditional guarantee that England will keep their original allocation of games in the event of their Five Nations membership coming to an end. England are due to host both semi-finals in the 1999 tournament, which is based in Wales. Tom Kiernan, the Irish Rugby Football Union president who flanked Pugh at a World Cup presentation in Cardiff, admitted that Ireland would be prepared to stage additional World Cup matches should England's allocation be reduced or withdrawn altogether but hoped England's role in the 1999 competition would be unchanged. Pugh, who is also chairman of the International Board, suggested that "existing arrangements" vis-à-vis the Rugby Football Union's allocation of games were dependent on their working partnership with the three other home unions remaining intact. Asked to give assurances that England's role in 1999 would have his continued support, Pugh sidestepped the issue, claiming that the Five Nations Committee was the appropriate forum for such a matter. Today the Five Nations Committee is expected to issue a statement detailing its views on England's future membership should they keep to their aim of negotiating a separate TV contract for the International Championship. France already has a separate contract, yet Pugh has been lobbying Ireland, Scotland and Italy on the possibility of setting up a new European competition without England unless they agree to a four-way split of TV money. Tony Ikin, the RFU secretary who attended yesterday's World Cup launch, said: "I would be most concerned — and even more surprised — if the World Cup semi-finals were taken away from England. I am not clear what he [Pugh] meant by his remarks on our Five Nations membership. We have a strong desire to remain in the Five Nations and it would be sad and unnecessary were we to be excluded." If that happens it

would unite English rugby in a way that all our clubs [with the clubs] have failed to do. "I believe every nation should negotiate their own deal in this new high-tech television era. France have set that precedent in the Five Nations, so they [the other unions] can hardly say we are doing anything new. "We need the extra money to develop the game and fund our clubs — it would not be used to sustain inflationary wages for players. During this period of argument we would hope to secure the best financial future for England." Hallett added that England's membership of the Five Nations "was not tied to a joint TV contract". He also insisted that England's relationship with the WRU was "friendly and cooperative" despite Pugh's anger at England's perceived greed and self-interest in seeking a £150 million deal with BSkyB. Pugh, meanwhile, poured cold water on a proposal that the winners of the Southern Hemisphere Triangular tournament involving New Zealand, South Africa and Australia should play the Five Nations champions on an annual basis. Pugh suggested a regular North-South play-off between the respective hemispheres would be damaging to the World Cup and called on those involved in international tournaments to abandon any such plan. England will have to play the winners and the runners-up in a group that includes Austria, Yugoslavia, Israel, Ukraine and Switzerland in order to qualify for the 1999 finals. Scotland must do likewise in a group consisting of Bulgaria, Moldova, Croatia and Norway; Ireland's qualifying group will involve Luxembourg, Andorra, Hungary, Lithuania and Sweden. Wales and Switzerland do not have to qualify. "We have tried to avoid too many mis-matches in an effort to increase the overall standard of rugby throughout the world," explained Leo Williams, the Australian chairman of Rugby World Cup. "We think some nations are rapidly improving their performance. Italy and Argentina, for instance, were soundly beaten in 1991 but they proved very competitive in 1995." Paul Thornburn, the former North and Wales captain, has been appointed a tournament director of the 1999 World Cup. The 33-year-old Thornburn currently works for the Welsh Development Agency.

Sailing

Heavyweight blow for Ainslie

BEN AINSLIE suffered a setback in the BP Laser World Championship yesterday when he was disqualified from the eighth race after his clothes were found to contravene the weight limit. Britain's 19-year-old Olympic representative thus slipped from second to third overall with two races to go in the championship which is being held off Simon's Town, South Africa. Ainslie was third in yesterday's first race, which Sweden's Karl Swenson led from start to finish in brisk 15- to 20-knot breezes. Winds fell to 10-12 knots in the second, with the top half of the 65 boats amalgamated to form the "gold" fleet, and Ainslie struggled home 17th before the disqualification was announced. He had hoped to count this finish, having had a 19th place earlier. For the final day the defending champion Robert Scheidt of Brazil leads Germany's Stefan Warthalla by 20 points to 11, with Ainslie and Swenson on 10. Iain Percy, who started fourth overall, had a tough day with a 26th and a 16th but is still fifth in the overall table.

Cricket

New-look Atherton is all smiles

Paul Weaver MIKE ATHERTON'S body language this winter has seemed less fitted for the England captaincy than for Sean Penn's role in Dead Man Walking. His facial expression in South Africa recalled Les Dawson or Tony Hancock, and during the subsequent World Cup there was every sign that this once affable cricketer was also developing a news-media complex. All that is about to change, if yesterday's Cornhill Insurance England Player of the Year lunch at the Roof Gardens in Kensington was any guide. There were a few raised eyebrows when Atherton, wearing a pair of casual trousers, turned up at 2.04 for the 12.30 lunch, but in fact he had done splendidly to be there at all, having dashed straight from Gatwick on return from Lancashire's pre-season tour of Jamaica. He greeted everyone with a heavy-brown smile and welcomed the new England coach David Lloyd, who in turn promised everyone a more cheerful England captain this summer. The Mr Grumpy image is about to go: this was the assurance. "I think Mike can identify the problem himself and he does realise that this is an area he will have to brush up on," said Lloyd. This season he will be a happier character. He also knows that I shall be there for him, as I shall be for all the players. I know Mike: he can be a temperamental lad who doesn't like losing. I feel comfortable with him. "This season I want England players to put on a smile and show everyone they are enjoying it. We can play really well, as we did when we came up against West Indies last year. I want to marry together the preparation, the rest periods and the actual playing to ensure everyone is right on song when it matters. Lloyd, whose contract is for the summer, is a bit of showman himself. He has a lucrative sideline in after-dinner speaking and is a popular radio commentator, yet has proved a sharp and original thinker on the game. "David brings this great sense of joy to the players," said Atherton, who took part in one match in Jamaica and scored a century. "But he's also right up with the game and its theories and techniques. Dominic Cork is wearing a smile already. Yesterday the Derbyshire all-rounder was presented with a silver trophy and cheque for £7,500 as Cornhill's Player of the Year.

Bacher to compensate Surrey for withdrawal of McMillan

SURREY have been given an apology and are to receive compensation from the United Cricket Board of South Africa for the loss of Brian McMillan as their overseas player. McMillan signed a deal to replace Wagar Younis but, following pressure from AII Bacher, managing director of the UCB, withdrew because of his busy international programme. Surrey have since signed Australia's left-arm pace bowler Brendan Julian. The Glamorgan all-rounder Roland Leferbure has been forced to retire because of pelvic damage suffered last July. Graham Gooch yesterday dropped his strongest hint yet that this could be his last summer with Essex. At the county's press day he said: "Ideally I would like to coach and put something back into the game which has given me so much pleasure." An unbroken partnership of 176 overs between Ben Smith (123) and Paul Nixon (100) carried Leicestershire to 289 for four declared against Oxford University at The Parks ground. The county had started the second day on 139 for four. The students were 123 for four at the close.

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Some of asking...

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EURO 96 FOOTBALL HOME

Kenya rules 100th Boston Marathon, page 13

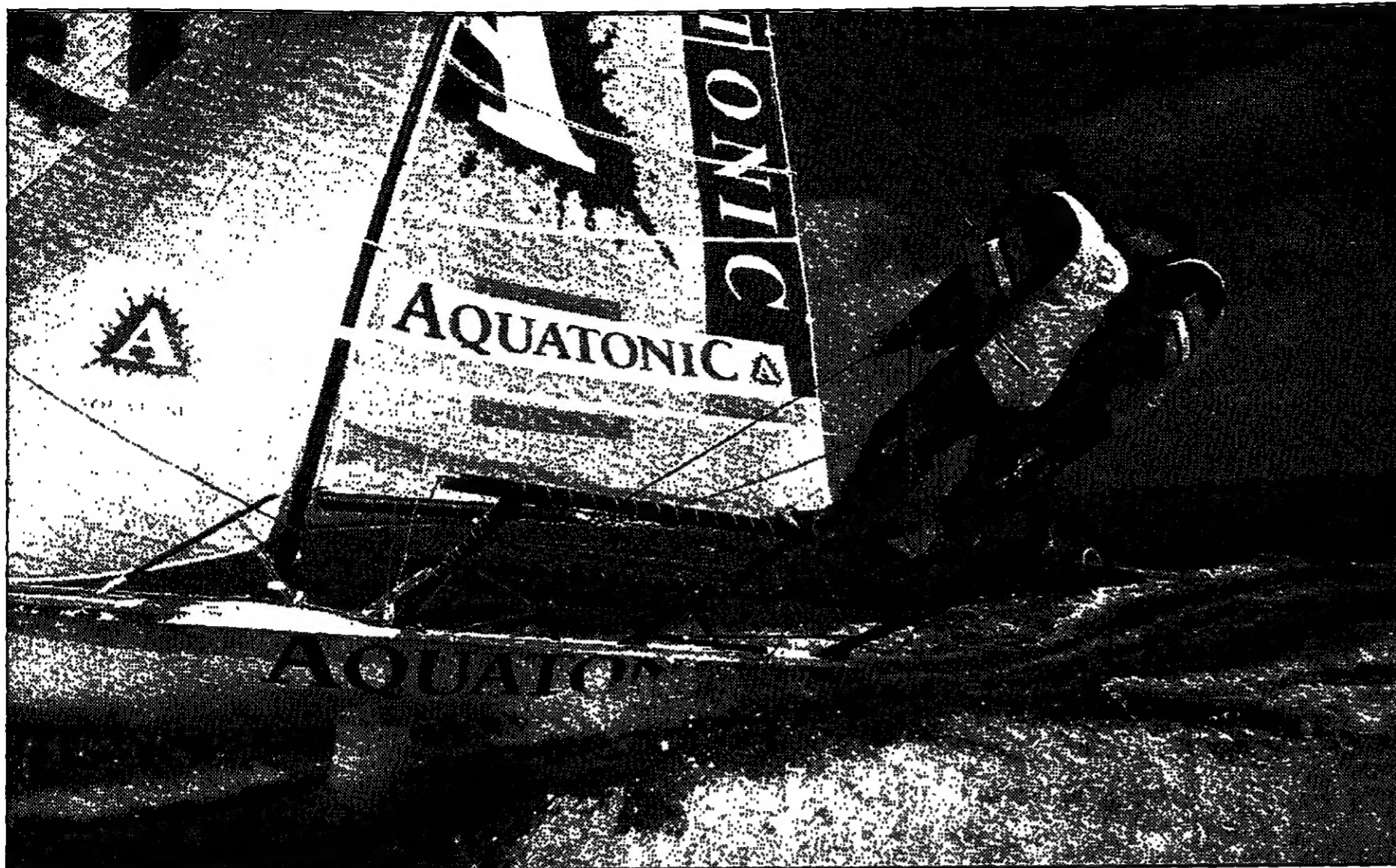
The cruel torments of Greg Norman, page 15

United unveil another shirt, page 14

World Cup threat to Twickenham, page 15

SportsGuardian

THREE MEN ON A BOAT: A CHANNEL JOYRIDE BEFORE OLYMPIC BUSINESS



Beam me over... Adrian Stead, Britain's Olympic representative with Andy Beadsworth for the Soling Class in Atlanta, was timed at more than 18 knots on this run across Poole Bay with his crewmen Ian Budge and Andy Hemmings. Their 18ft skiff is entered for the Aquatonic Skiff Grand Prix, a six-venue regatta which begins on May 25 on Datchet Reservoir

Premiership: Arsenal 0, Tottenham Hotspur 0

Arsenal draw home comfort

Martin Thorpe

TOTTENHAM look as if they will be holidaying abroad later this year rather than competing there after a goalless draw left their North London rivals in the driving seat for a place in Europe. Spurs really needed to win, but their only consolation came on for 13 minutes at the end, his first senior football in seven months. What would have been a limited-interest local derby

was given extra spice by the fact that both teams were chasing the UEFA Cup place on offer for finishing fifth in the Premiership. With the teams above them already catered for in Europe next season, a mini race involving three or four sides has developed, beneath the tussle for the title. For either of these two teams to win it would be a fitting reward for both managers' efforts this season. Bruce Rioch may have discovered that the overhaul of Arsenal requires something more drastic than just bolting on Bergkamp and Platt, but

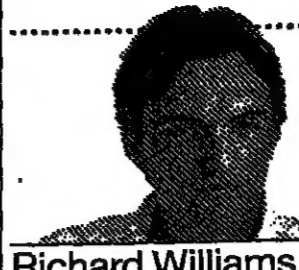
he deserves credit for the way he has tackled the tough task of following George Graham. For Gerry Francis, life at Tottenham has been a matter of bringing organisation to a team with a cavalier tradition in an attempt to turn eternal promise into trophies. He has had his problems along the way: the InterToto fiasco and the resulting ban from Europe, later rescinded, and the loss through injury for much of the season of Anderton, arguably his best player. It was a relief, as much for the watching English coach Terry Venables as anybody, to see Anderton enter the fray. Venables will be happy, too, to hear that Tony Adams, out injured since January, plans a comeback in the Arsenal reserves this Saturday.

Arsenal now employ a sweeper system and it was from this solid base that they dominated the first half, giving the Spurs captain Mabbutt an exhaustive test on his return from injury. But for all their chances before the break, Arsenal could not score. Bergkamp and Merson shot over and, when Wright was put through by the Dutchman only to be brought down by Edinburgh 25 yards out, Bergkamp even directed the free-kick too high. Two of Arsenal's best early chances came from breaks. Parlour down the right, then Bergkamp down the left, both finding Merson inside the area only for the floppy-haired forward to deposit each one over the bar. Despite their 44-goal strik-

ing partnership of Sheringham and Armstrong, Spurs did not create a clear chance until the 32nd minute, when the latter curled an 18-yard shot just outside Seaman's far post. The half-time break was bordered by two errors, either of which could have led to breaking the deadlock. First, Fox tried an audacious back-heel in his own area — not the place to try such things — and let in Winterburn who shot wide. Then a mix-up between Keown and Parlour freed Howells, whose run into the area finished with a pass to Sheringham who also shot wide. Sheringham, with a bandanna round his head to protect a head wound sustained in training, looked more practical than ever. On this oc-

casional, however, his shooting was not up to the standard of the game. As the second half wore on, Tottenham slowly came back into the game, applying more sustained pressure on the Arsenal defence than they had experienced all evening. Their best chance came on 66 minutes when Sheringham fed Armstrong in the area. But the striker stopped, along with the Arsenal defenders, waiting for the offside flag. When none appeared, Armstrong then shot wide to sum up a game littered with near-misses. Arsenal's Squad: Dixon, Keown, Leighton, Marshall, Winterburn, Merson (Keeper), Platt, Parlour, Bergkamp, Tottenham's Squad: Wilson, Campbell (Keeper), Fox, Merson, Edinburgh, Fox, Howells, Dezotti (Anderton), Wright, Rosenthal, Sheringham, Armstrong. Referee: M Reid (Birmingham).

The pressure that released Faldo's spirit



Richard Williams

Did Greg Norman lose the US Masters, or did Nick Faldo win it? Afterwards even the victor seemed unsure. "I hope people might remember the 1996 Masters as the one in which I shot a best-of-the-day 67 to win," Faldo said, "but I suspect this will be the Masters which people remember as the one Greg Norman lost by shooting a closing 78." Faldo was wrong about that. His self-deprecation may have added a final grace note to a remarkable day but the only people who could have agreed with him were the ones who hadn't been watching. If you merely read in the newspapers about the fourth day at Augusta National, absorbing the statistics of Norman's 11 dropped shots, Faldo's summary may have seemed an accurate analysis. But to sit in front of a TV screen tuned to BBC2 on Sunday night was to witness not a losing performance but a winning one. Two winning performances, actually. Over the course of their long and lucrative careers neither Norman nor Faldo has been easy for the neutral to love. Something cold and unyielding in the Englishman's character, something kitsch — the hats, the shirts, the too-blond hair — about the Australian, the suspicion of arrogance in both men. As they celebrated their good fortune, the teeth were often on edge.

Australian. For once, however, he did not allow it to mask his humanity. He frowned, he peered anxiously into the distance, he wiped the sweat of a humid afternoon from his brow, he fretfully ran a hand through his hair. In other words, he behaved like a real person. And, as Peter Allas pointed out, he also showed a remarkable decorum in the face of Norman's collapse. A man often noted for his graceless acceptance of victory suddenly revealed compassion. In the same register Norman's public acceptance of his fate — "I let it slip and I paid the price, but it's not the end of the world" — was given the context, on a par with the famous words of Michael Johnson after failing to qualify for the Olympic 400 metres final in Barcelona: "The sun will be out tomorrow and the stars will be out tonight. It was only a race." And with those of the 19-year-old Boris Becker, knocked out in the second round at Wimbledon after his two consecutive titles: "Basically, I lost a tennis match. I didn't lose a war. Nobody died."

As for Faldo, we can only marvel at the depth of his self-belief and commitment to the fullest expression of his talent. By way of a grisly contrast, yesterday four young English cricketers answered an eye-of-the-season questionnaire. Asked about his ambitions for the summer, the Essex all-rounder Ronnie Irani replied: "I don't put myself under pressure by setting personal targets." Jason Pooley, the Middlesex batsman, was asked whether he thought the current poor form of the England team gave him a chance of a Test place. "I'm not going to put myself under pressure by thinking about playing for England," he said. Whoever feeds these boys such thoughts should be taken out and shot — but only after they have asked themselves what Nick Faldo thought about when he went to bed on Saturday, six strokes arid of Greg Norman and with 18 holes to play. Did the thought of winning the Masters for the third time cross his mind? Did he put himself under pressure? You bet he did. If you aren't prepared to put yourself under pressure, you shouldn't be taking the money. And what we saw on Sunday was the best sign in sport, the justification of the whole competitive ideal: grace under pressure from winner and loser alike.

David Davies, page 15

Play-off will decide title race if Uniteds finish in dead heat

John Duncan on a potential bonanza in pay-per-view

THIS season's Premiership title will be decided by a play-off between Newcastle United and Manchester United if the teams finish level on points, goal difference and goals scored. And Sky have an option to make the game pay-per-view. What is normally a remote possibility has become increasingly probable with United's goal record 64-35 and Newcastle's 62-35. If Newcastle win their game in hand 2-0 and the team's match each other in the final three games then the Premier League board — Rick Parry and Sir John Quinton — will meet to decide the format of the play-off.

The options will be a two-legged home and away affair or a single Wembley match with a replay if necessary. Sky Sports has stressed on several occasions that there are no plans for pay-per-view soccer. However, there is a clause in the current TV contract that allows it to switch specific Premiership games to pay-per-view, though only with the explicit permission of the league. After the huge financial success of the Bruno v Tyson world title fight the question could be tentatively raised again for what would be the biggest domestic match since Arsenal won the title at Anfield in 1993. If Sky did have a change of heart on pay-per-view soccer they would meet resistance from the Premier League board over the issue.

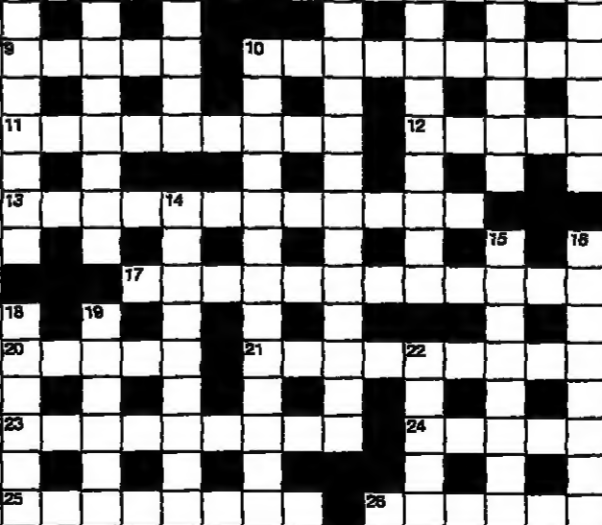
"For a start this is a remote possibility," said a Premier League spokesman yesterday, "and the format of any such game has not been decided. No games can be put on pay-per-view without the explicit permission of the Premier League and we have not had any reason to consider the matter yet. It has not been an issue so far and we have no plans to change the current operation of the contract." However, the extra revenue involved may tempt the two clubs to put pressure on the Premier League. Sky is available in five million households and 2.9 million people watched the recent league match between the two sides. A 10 per cent take-up at, for example, £10, could generate an extra £5 million on top of what would be sell-out crowds for the match or matches.

In her native Canada, Alanis Morissette was a child star of such fabulous Bonnie Langfordness that a future of game shows and supermarket-openings seemed cast in stone. Instead at 21, she has an eight-million-selling album and a shelf full of awards.

Caroline Sullivan G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,628

Set by Janus



- Across**
- 1 Footballers rebel at poetic entertainment (6)
 - 4 Wild bear was in a hurry to start wandering (8)
 - 9 Alien visitor attending one month in eight (5)
 - 10 Refusing to accept going down (9)
 - 11 Standard in those days on Greek temple (5)
 - 12 Clear air with article in "Queen"? (5)
 - 13 Where French spouse has occasion to treat pals (5,4)
 - 17 Sounds just the furniture for a quarryman (5-7)
 - 20 Drink upsetting sailor at dance (5)
 - 21 Judge for example could make a rent in it (5)
 - 23 US bank-note hit on unexpectedly late in the series (6)
 - 24 Forest of irregular density (5)
 - 25 Fall-out leading to under-world solidarity (8)
 - 26 Club for the display of male skills? (5)
- Down**
- 1 Two politicians about to turn up a source of inflation (4-4)
 - 2 Food-suppliers to the terraces? (8)
 - 3 Abandon to long depression (5)
 - 5 Writer going to town for a snack (5,3)
 - 6 Dish that is praised — highly praised, probably (5,3)
 - 7 Burning one of little weight (8)
 - 8 Stir for example caused by large cats (5)
 - 10 Keep murr? Not at all (4,7,2)
 - 14 Chemical process to determine bird's share of food? (8)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,627
15 I speak ill of Marxman for instance (5)
16 Faigms to be a claimant perhaps (8)
18 Conducted searching enquiry when quietly dressed (6)
19 Looks kindly on exponent of self-sufficiency (6)
22 Get rid of hesitancy on putting to sea? (5)

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